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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Ministers End Meeting, Issue Statement

LD0711231790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2010 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 7 Nov, SPA—Their excellencies the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] ministers of interior have ended this evening their third extraordinary meeting which was held at the palace of conferences in Jeddah.

At the start of the final session, Sayyaf Bin Hashil al-Maskari, GCC assistant secretary of state for political affairs, read out the final statement issued by the meeting. Here is the text:

Their excellencies the GCC ministers of interior held their 9th [as heard] meeting in Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 7 November 1990 at the noble invitation of His Royal Highness Amir Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, Saudi minister of interior, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Badr Bin-Sa'ud Bin-Haribi al-Busa'idi, Omani interior minister.

Their excellencies debated Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the Iraqi regime's attempt to annex Kuwait and abolish its identity. The ministers condemn the Iraqi regime for its flagrant aggression against Kuwait, a member of the GCC, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the UN; its challenging of the Arab, Islamic, and international will; its continuation of the policy of plundering and dismantling of the constituents of the State of Kuwait; and its scorn for international charters and disobeying of Security Council resolutions.

The ministers express their support for the State of Kuwait and their backing in all fields, and in particular, whatever concerns the security aspects and contributes to the liberation of Kuwait and the return of legitimacy to it, under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, and his heir apparent, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah.

The ministers confirm the continuation of the GCC members' policy of providing all facilities to the Kuwaiti citizens who were expelled from their homeland and deprived of their possessions.

They declare that they will continue their policy of assistance until the total liberation of Kuwait, Almighty God willing. The ministers reaffirm their firm stand in confronting terrorist threats and the holding of hostages, and their determination to take the necessary steps to stand as one firm front in combating terrorism.

In affirming the cohesion among the member states, the ministers made the appropriate decisions which will lead to the deepening of links and the strengthening of the integration of the security apparatuses of the member states, given that security in the states of the council is indivisible. The ministers reviewed the steps and measures taken by each state in order to preserve its security and well-being. They stress the [need for] consolidating such measures in order to safeguard each state's security and stability.

Issued in Jeddah on 7 November 1990. [passage omitted]

GCC Countries' Security Situation 'Excellent'

LD0811000490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2315 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Jeddah 7 Nov, SPA—His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the minister of interior, described the security situation in the Kingdom and in the rest of Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries as excellent. His assertions came in the course of his reply to journalists' questions following the meeting of the GCC interior ministers in Jeddah today. His Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz said on the repercussions of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait: "We can say that the security aspects are excellent now and we hope that they will continue so." His Highness added: "All of you have been hearing the threats to the countries of the region and we should not exclude anything taking place."

On Muslims' arrival in the Kingdom for visits, minor pilgrimages, and hajj, his highness said: "They should have peace of mind and be assured that they will be secure and safe. God willing, everything will be all right." His Highness was asked about the upcoming meeting of Arab interior ministers and whether such a matter was examined at the meeting of the GCC interior ministers and said: "This matter is left to whatever the interior ministers would decide in general." [sentence as received]

Islamic Affairs

ICO Summit Postponed to Time of 'More Harmony'

LD0711221990 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Secretary General Hamid al Ghabid announced that the 6th Islamic summit scheduled to be held in Senegal next January will be postponed a few months because of the crisis caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In press statements he made today at the end of his visit to the Republic of Chad, al Ghabid said that this postponement came after consultations between the Republic of Senegal and a number of ICO member states. He added that these consultations confirmed the need for the Islamic summit to be held when the Islamic world is in more harmony so that the crime of the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait does not prevail over other important Islamic issues. Al Ghabid pointed out that the new date for convening the summit will be set during the consultations now under way between ICO member states. He also hopes for an end to Iraq's occupation of the State of Kuwait so that Islamic solidarity returns to its former state.

Palestinian Affairs

Abu-Sharif Views Resistance, Presence in Lebanon

LD0711162190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] These days we are witnessing a great argument between the PLO and the Lebanese Government. The Palestinians are asking the Lebanese Government for [word indistinct] the Palestinian role in Lebanon, and the signing of a new agreement that would regulate the Palestinian presence to ensure the security and safety of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, as articulated by [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine leader] Nayif Hawatimah. On this subject we interviewed Bassam Abu-Sharif, [PLO Chairman] 'Arafat's adviser, on the future of Palestinians in Lebanon in light of the extension of Lebanese legitimacy, and developments in occupied Palestine following the escalation of the wave of violence by Jewish extremists. Here is the text of the interview:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Bassam Abu-Sharif, since the Lebanese Government has been able to extend its legitimacy over Lebanon, Palestinian refugees in Lebanon have begun to demand arms. What will be the fate of Palestinians in Lebanon in light of these measures?

[Abu-Sharif] The PLO and the Lebanese state are linked by agreements which have been affirmed and underwritten by the Arab League. We are prepared to discuss with the Lebanese state all the measures or amendments needed to help the brother Lebanese extend their sovereignty over their territory and liberate the southern part of it from Israel, and to unite the Lebanese territory and people. As you know, however, the PLO is a member of the Arab League, and it has been agreed that the PLO will have bases and military camps in the Arab Palestinian territory, just as the brother Algerian mujahidin had bases outside Algeria until the liberation of their homeland was achieved and they returned to it in triumph. We are not a militia group, but a member of the Arab League, as I said. The Palestine Liberation Forces are now in Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and Lebanon. Our relations with these countries are regulated by agreements secured by the Arab League.

[Reporter] Bassam Abu-Sharif, how do you expect the situation to develop in occupied Palestine following the killing of one of the senior Zionist extremists, Rabbi Me'ir Kahana—founder of the Jewish Kakh movement in the United States.

[Abu-Sharif] Me'ir Kahana was an extremist racist who called for the killing of all Arabs. He wished for the death of all Arabs, not just Palestinians. The situation in the occupied territories is ablaze, not because of the killing of Me'ir Kahana, but because of the Israeli occupation which is daily promoting bloody terrorism against the Palestinian people. This is the main reason for the explosive situation in the occupied territory and for the tragedies in the occupied Palestinian territories. As far as we are concerned, I would like to tell you clearly that our objective is to step up the resistance with all the strength we can muster and with all the weapons we possess. There is no other way for the Palestinian people other than more struggle, more resistance until the last soldier leaves our land.

We expect the United Nations, and the Security Council specifically, to end its double standards in dealing with the Middle East issues, a standard that is biased toward Israel when matters concern the rights of the Palestinian people, but which embodies the mobilization of the world and the amassment of forces to implement a resolution concerning the Gulf. The Arab and Islamic nations view this basically Western bias with [words indistinct] and urge the international community and the world to move one step forward toward the implementation of UN Security Resolution 242 which demands the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces. Twenty-three years have passed since that resolution was adopted. Up until now we have been seeing the U.S. Administration and the West procrastinating in implementing that resolution. We urge our Arab nation, our Arab workers everywhere, to start the real [word indistinct] by taking measures to boycott every country that supports the Israeli occupation and supports those who fire at Palestinian citizens, children, women, and men. For our part, we pledge before God and before our nation that we will step up our resistance until the occupier moves out. Exactly as the French occupier moved out of Algeria. [end recording]

Kahana Killing Lauded; 'Darker Fate' for Others

JN0811111790 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 0540 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, with two bullets fired in the right direction by an Arab, the terrorist Me'ir Kahana fell in his blood, saying: This was for what I have committed; I have sown the thorns, and here I am harvesting the wind. He fell before the eyes of his audience and the American protectors of their crimes, whose feelings and humanity have been unmoved by the constant crimes committed by the Zionist enemy against the Palestinian people for scores of years. Zionist Me'ir, the American-born U.S. national and Zionist politician, who never hesitated to emphasize the way of crime and the logic of murder—followed by all Israeli politicians and the herds of settlers in the Zionist entity who rushed to kill and expel the Palestinians—fell.

With bullets that gave the murderers a taste of their own medicine, terrorist Kahana fell, bequeathing his dark history and the file of his hatred and crimes against everything Arab and Palestinian to the defenders and supporters of Zionist terrorism against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

Terrorist Kahana, who underlined threats to kill every Palestinian Arab through massacres—whose theaters were in Hebron, Jerusalem, (Sabastiyah), and Umm-al-Fahm—fell yesterday with bullets produced by the Arab blood shed by the Zionists in Palestine, Lebanon, Bahr al-Baqar, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, and all Arab countries. They were the bullets of the blood that was never, and never will be, lost in vain. [passage indistinct]

Kahana fell, and the U.S. goods were returned to its owners. He fell after having had a free hand to bully and terrorize, and after he had shed enough Palestinian blood under the protection of the occupation authorities and with weapons supplied to his group by these authorities. Kahana fell, clinging to the illusion and trying to escape the curse of the Palestinian stone, which will pursue all those who have legitimized, supported, and implemented the crimes to harm Palestine and its people and sanctities.

And behind his coffin, the henchmen of terrorism and crime were driven, condemning their bad luck and issuing threats. Deep in their hearts, however, they will wish they were in Kahana's place in his coffin, because he has left them to face an even darker fate. This is also because those who will live longer will see more bitterness and pain. Tomorrow is just around the corner for those awaiting it.

More Arab, Islamic Support for Palestinians Urged

JN0711213090 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] The Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] has issued a statement denouncing the Zionist enemy massacres of Palestinian people as the revolutionary intifadah is about to begin its fourth year.

The statement says: These practices and crimes are provoking very little Arab and international condemnation and denunciation. Indeed, the United States behaves as an abettor, preventing any condemnation of the Israeli crimes. On the contrary, the United States is stepping up its military and economic assistance to the Zionist entity against the backdrop of the U.S. stand on the Gulf issue, and is clearly taking a hostile position against the Palestinian people and their rights and against the Arab nation and causes.

Our people, who are facing the oppression and savagery of this entity, are more determined to confront the Zionists and are confirming, through their struggle, that they are waging the genuine Arab nation's battle in the right direction.

The Arab and Islamic nations and their governments are called upon to abandon their marginal differences and work internationally with all friends to build an effective solidarity with the Palestinian people and stop these daily massacres which are being perpetrated against the unarmed Palestinian people. They are urged to orchestrate the largest possible international campaign to expose the Israeli massacres, which go against all international laws and human norms, and to take a serious and practical stand on the threats posed by Zionist immigration and Israel's expansionist ambitions. They are urged to confront them with an effective Arab solidarity that places the option of resisting and confronting this threat at the top of their agenda.

Algeria

Central Bank Devalues Dinar to 0.5 French Francs

LD0711205390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Since the beginning of this year, the [Algerian] dinar has lost 46 percent of its official value against the French franc and the U.S. dollar. The Algerian [Central] Bank has set the value of the dinar at 0.5 French francs and 10 [as heard] U.S. dollars. According to AFP, the fall in the value of the dinar will continue in the coming weeks until it stabilizes at around 15 French centimes, which experts believe to be close to the value of the dinar on the black market. [passage omitted]

Egypt

'Large Number' of Frogmen Arrested in Alexandria

PM0811122990 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 3 Nov 90 pp 1-2

[Report by Zakariyya Fikri: "Frogmen Arrested in Alexandria Being Interrogated"]

[Excerpts] Alexandria—A major security organ and the Office of State Security Investigation in Alexandria are interrogating a large number of frogmen arrested at Alexandria Port. Security Sources have confirmed that the frogmen infiltrated Alexandria on board merchant ships and were in the water in the areas of al-Mina' al-Faransawi, between al-Maks and al-Dakhilah, al-Shatibi and Abu Qir, and Alexandria Port. As AL-WAFD went to press, security sources had not yet revealed the identity of the arrested frogmen.

The security authorities in Alexandria used searchlights along the shore and turned all the port lights on. They also carried out large-scale search operations to search for any explosives or bombs aimed at undermining security and stability in the country. The Alexandria port authorities used units from the special forces in Abu Qir as well as snipers and frogmen from the naval forces to conduct a comprehensive inspection of Alexandria waters and berth areas.

AL-WAFD has learned that the arrested frogmen intended to carry out sabotage operations at Alexandria port and some important installations in Alexandria. Units from the special forces and snipers moved deep into the waters to search for more frogmen. [passage omitted]

The night before last security forces arrested two frogmen who were discovered to be Iraqis. They had been trying to mine Alexandria port. They had on them bombs and explosives intended for carrying out sabotage operations. The Office of State Security Investigation is now conducting extensive investigations with the two Iraqis to determine the dimensions of the destructive scheme on which they had intended to embark.

Mubarak on Baker's Visit, Iraqi Threats

NC0811082490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0726 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak stated that he discussed with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker the need to exhaust all the peaceful means to solve the Gulf crisis, expressing his belief that the United States is in agreement with Egypt on this.

In statements he made to reporters after seeing off Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko this morning, President Mubarak expressed his belief that hope remains until the last moment and that this depends on the Iraqi president and his reviewing the matter. He said: We do not want Iraqi destruction or ruin, or anything of the sort. The situation as I see it is that there are huge, huge forces.

He called on Iraq to trust Egypt's words. He said: We are not saying this to deceive, but are sincere. We are against occupation regardless of our friendship.

President Mubarak then asked: Have we become their enemies because we opposed the occupation? I do not understand the meaning of this hostility, the abuse and so on. We do not pay any attention to the abuse, and will not reply in kind for I will not say a single bad word about anyone.

Replying to a question about the existence of Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi coordination, President Mubarak said: When we meet we will discuss the steps that must be taken. This is a constant process with all the Arab countries.

Regarding the Soviet stand on the Gulf crisis and whether there has been a change in it or a clearer idea of what President Gorbachev has proposed, President Mubarak said that the Soviet Union supports the UN resolutions and will not deviate from this line.

Responding to a question about Iraqi threats to the Arab countries that are participating in the multinational forces in Saudi Arabia, President Mubarak said: I hope that we stop talking about threats and look for a solution.

President Mubarak stressed that we do not fear threats and we must look for a solution to spare the people the evils of wars, destruction, and death. We do not make threats, he added.

Replying to another question on whether the issue of the military command of the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia was discussed with James Baker, President Mubarak said: We will not discuss this issue because the Egyptian forces are operating under the Saudi command.

Butrus Ghali Discusses Baker's Tour, Gulf Issue

JN0811111990 Cairo MAYU in Arabic 5 Nov 90 p 11

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In statements to MAYU, Dr. Butrus Ghali, [Egyptian] minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that Egypt welcomes Baker's visit and believes that through this visit we can work to achieve further consultations, particularly that we all support dialogue. He said that the visit is to reaffirm the solidarity which exists among the countries to condemn the Iraqi aggression and reaffirm the importance of abiding by respect for the independence and sovereignty of UN member countries. On Baker's visit and its meaning, Dr. Ghali said that it is basically for consultations. Besides the contacts which take place at ambassadorial level, there is a need for direct contacts. This will occur through meetings between Baker and the leaders of the countries he is to visit.

On the other hand, Dr. Ghali denied that Baker's current tour is a sign that the United States seeks to set a date for a military move against Iraq. He said that the decision to move from the stage of economic sanctions to that of military sanctions will certainly require holding contacts with the permanent UN Security Council members. He said there is an agreement that if the economic sanctions against Iraq do not succeed as an element of pressure then it is inevitable to think of military means in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 7 of the charter. After this, a UN Security Council resolution will have to be issued that will adopt such means. Dr. Ghali said that the United States and the USSR are not only in full agreement regarding the bases on which the settlement should take place, but also on the means that should be used to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Assessing the U.S. role in the Gulf crisis, Dr. Ghali said that the U.S. role does not differ from the French, British, or Egyptian role in terms of political determination, abidance by the principles of international law, and the need to operate within the UN framework. Dr. Ghali said he cannot accept what is being said that the current U.S. role in the management of the crisis is the one that dominates and directs the other countries' roles. He said: I do not believe this is the case. But even if the United States is the one that directs the international grouping, what is important is the consensus that was attained at the UN Security Council. The consensus is what is important. If it exists, one can say that there is total agreement on stands and ideas with respect to the issue.

On the differences in the positions of the USSR and the United States on the Gulf crisis, Dr. Ghali said: On the contrary, there is total agreement which manifests itself in 10 UN Security Council resolutions that were approved by the two superpowers. [passage omitted]

PRC Minister Qian Holds Talks on Gulf, Departs

NC0711155690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1332 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Official talks between Egypt and China were held today. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, chaired the Egyptian delegation, and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who is visiting Cairo, chaired the Chinese delegation. The talks dealt with developments in the Gulf and international efforts to settle the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict, in addition to bilateral ties.

The Chinese foreign minister stated after the meeting that the only way in which suitable circumstances can be created to settle the Gulf crisis peacefully is for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. He added that Egypt is doing its utmost to achieve a peaceful, political solution to the crisis, and noted that such a settlement can only be attained on the basis of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

The Chinese foreign minister described his talks with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid as fruitful and added that both ministers expressed profound worry about the crisis and the current situation in the Gulf.

He added that in view of the important role Egypt plays on the Arab scene, his talks in Cairo about the Gulf crisis and current problems were very useful to him.

The Chinese foreign minister is scheduled to leave Cairo for Saudi Arabia this afternoon after visiting Egypt for two days and meeting with President Husni Mubarak and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The Chinese minister's visit to Egypt is part of a tour of several countries in the region, including Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Iraq.

[At 1425 GMT on 7 November in a Cairo-datelined item, Cairo MENA in Arabic adds: "Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen left Cairo this afternoon, following a one-day [as received] visit to Egypt during which he met with President Husni Mubarak and handed him a message from Chinese President Yang Shangkun.

"The Chinese minister was seen off at the airport by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister."]

Talks Detailed

JN0711184790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Dispatch by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Text] During his meeting with President Mubarak today, the PRC foreign minister said he would discuss the problem of foreign hostages with the Iraqi president. He said if he succeeded in solving this problem, international changes must be effected that parallel the Iraqi changes in this regard. He proposed that the international community pledge to search for definite ideas to realize peace in the Gulf with the agreement of all international and regional parties.

The Egyptian-PRC talks centered on a Chinese proposal to continue the political options to solve the crisis through international negotiations with Iraq. Mubarak averred that he supports any step that will spare the region the war option and said he hoped that the PRC minister's mission would succeed.

In this connection it was learned that during his meeting with the Chinese foreign minister yesterday, James Baker asked that the PRC pledge to approve the use of military force against Iraq if the minister failed in his current tour to convince Iraq to solve the crisis peacefully. The PRC minister refused, however, to give that pledge, indicating that peaceful solutions might take time. He proposed that agreement be reached among the world powers on a definite and sufficient time frame to test the peace efforts with Iraq. He emphasized his country's readiness to support the military option if these efforts failed.

Meanwhile, informed Egyptian sources told our station that Mubarak's talks with James Baker yesterday concentrated on the concept of a joint Egyptian-U.S. forces command if the war spreads outside Saudi Arabia; namely, Kuwait and Iraq. The U.S. Administration demanded that the Egyptian fighting units join the U.S. divisions during the liberation of Kuwait, and that these forces play the role of safeguarding the U.S. forces and protecting their strategic rear. The sources said, however, that President Mubarak emphasized it was necessary to wait a period of time, extending to several months, before a military decision was made. The Egyptian president preferred that U.S. coordination with the other international forces in the Gulf be done in a way in which the U.S. Administration would leave it to the Arab military commands to decide the Arab forces' role in a manner commensurate with Gulf security as a whole.

Israel Warned Against Kakh Retaliatory Measures

JN0811124590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Dispatch by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Excerpt] Egypt has warned Israel against the consequences of a terrorist attack against the Palestinians by elements of the extremist Jewish Kakh movement. Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources told our radio that Cairo affirmed it has information that the Kakh movement intends to carry out a mass extermination plan against the Palestinians codenamed "Glory to Israel." [passage omitted]

Editorials Comment on Kahana's Assassination

NC0811074290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 8 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the assassination of Me'ir Kahana, AL-AKHBAR writes in its editorial today that the assassination of the extremist Rabbi Kahana in central New York should be a strong incentive for Israel's leaders to change their policies in the occupied Palestinian territories and to put an end to their forces' barbaric repression of Arab children, women, and elderly. The editorial says that these crimes have become a daily task for the Israeli soldiers who consider the Palestinians legitimate target practice.

The paper adds: Israel would be making a mistake if it tries to use this regrettable incident as an excuse to intensify its acts of revenge against the Palestinians because violence only breeds more violence and leads to more bloodshed. Tel Aviv leaders should, for once, behave like other civilized governments which adhere to the principles of law and human rights when dealing with evil. At the same time, Jews in the United States and the rest of the world should look at this incident, which took place in the main stronghold of Zionism, as a reaction to the massacres being perpetrated by Israel against the Arabs, the most recent of these being the al-Aqsa Mosque massacre.

For its part, AL-AHRAM writes in its editorial that Israel still opposes all the international efforts to help the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip escape their human suffering. It says that Israel rejected a proposal by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to hold a meeting of the signatories of the 4th Geneva Convention on the treatment of civilians under occupation or in time of war to discuss the means of protecting the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Perez de Cuellar made this proposal after Israel defied the Security Council following the two resolutions the Council adopted over two weeks calling on Israel to receive a fact-finding mission to investigate the al-Aqsa Mosque massacre of 8 October. Israel refused to receive the mission when the first resolution was passed, and took the same position when the second resolution was passed.

AL-AHRAM adds: The Jerusalem massacre and the massacres that followed it in less than one month have touched on the real issue and have brought forth what could possibly be a long and clear confrontation between the world and its organizations on the one hand, and Israel on the other over the true meaning of the Israeli presence and practices in the West Bank and Gaza. The issue is whether this is a blatant occupation or an alleged sovereignty that was the result of an illegal decision to annex [east Jerusalem].

Zairian President Mobutu Departs Cairo

NC0811092690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko and his wife left Cairo this morning at the end of a one-week visit during which he attended the opening of the Senghor University in Alexandria. They were seen off by President Husni Mubarak and his wife. [passage omitted]

The two presidents held a short round of talks at the presidential suite in the airport during which they resumed discussion of the issues with which they dealt yesterday, which focused on the Gulf crisis and other African and international issues.

Commentary Views Military Option in Gulf

NC0711205390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Commentary by Ibrahim Wahbi: "The Military Option—When It Will Have Priority in the Gulf"]

[Text] International observers are not taking the semirelaxation of the military in the Gulf seriously, nor are they deceived by the increasing references by some countries—who do this for one reason or another—to peaceful options. These countries do not mention the basis for and circumstances of their views. The observers are also not impressed by the Iraqi ruler's propaganda acts, such as the occasional release of some hostages. This means only that the military option exists and will come at an unexpected time without declaration. Wars in modern times are not declared in advance in the old traditional way. Contemporary wars break out without warning. All wars, according to the military expert Sun Tzu in his book "The Art of War," are based on deception. He says: Let us pretend we are unable to mount an offensive when we are able to attack, and let us feign inaction when we intend to use our forces. When we are close to war, we must act in a way that gives the impression that we are far from it; when we are far from it, we must make the enemy think we are close to it. Let us feign disorganization just before we crush the enemy. This was Sun Tzu's view of war.

In fact, everyone in the world wants to restore legitimacy by peaceful means to avoid bloodshed. No one, however, wants the peaceful way if that will signify the disappearance of Kuwait from the map, the elimination of international legitimacy and the rule of law, and a return to the law of the jungle and the policy of imposing solutions.

For this reason, we say that the military option imposes itself as long as the Iraqi ruler persists in his current stand. Saddam Husayn's attempts at muscle flexing and his exploitation of hostages and some delegations in order to reach an agreement on these hostages in return for a guarantee of no attack will not succeed. He is trying to propose to visiting delegations peaceful solutions that do not restore legitimacy or return the usurped land.

At the same time the Iraqi ruler is trying to build a high rampart on the Kuwaiti border behind which to hide. He has not learned that history previously brought down the Berlin Wall, the Iron Curtain around the Eastern Bloc, other lines in Germany, the Maginot line in France, and the Barlev line in Sinai.

We believe that Saddam Husayn's threats two days ago against the countries that hastened to help Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were the last arrow in his quiver. Egypt was the first to be threatened although he knows that Egypt and its Army have devoted themselves to the defense of the Arab nation against adventurers and those who are willing to cast their people into the inferno of wars that have no justification apart from preserving the spoils they have usurped and the crimes they have committed.

Saddam Husayn is trying to drive a wedge among the USSR, the United States, France, and Germany; between the EC and Britain; and also among the Arab countries. By doing this he is swimming against the current and will not succeed in using the hostages to provoke division because all these countries have already emphasized their determination to return Kuwait and to restore legitimacy. If among these there are some who give priority to a peaceful solution, this does not mean that the usurpation of Kuwait will stand or that legality will be abandoned. All they want is to give Saddam a means to back down and to keep the military option only as a last resort after all efforts to attain a peaceful solution have failed and after the futility of the economic embargo is proven over a certain period of time.

Commentary Questions Soviet Aims in Gulf Crisis

NC0411184690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1305 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Commentary by Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb: The Significance of Soviet Actions in the Gulf Crisis]

[Text] The Gulf crisis has reached a crossroad. The decision to resolve it is certainly a matter of time, and timing depends on interlinking factors. These factors show only that all means have been exhausted. The prevailing general belief is that the international community insists on Iraq's complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and that all efforts by this or that party to conclude a peaceful settlement with Iraq on the premise of conceding some regional gains for it are doomed to fail.

But the Soviet Union has acted recently under the slogan of not being hasty in using armed forces and of giving the peaceful solution a chance. Although Primakov, the Soviet envoy who met with Saddam Husayn in Baghdad, said that his mission did not achieve the hoped-for success, Soviet President Gorbachev said in a news conference after a meeting with President Mitterrand that he still hopes for a peaceful solution and asked the Arabs to make an effort to contain the crisis. The fact is that the Soviets themselves are not convinced of the usefulness of any discussion with Iraq on the means of a settlement, particularly as the Soviet leadership is asking Saddam Husayn to restore the situation in Kuwait to its state prior to 2 August.

The Soviet moves continue to raise significant questions for two reasons. The first is that the declared Soviet stand is one of opposition to the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and it rejects giving the aggressor any rewards, according to Gorbachev himself. The Soviet foreign minister underlined this stand in his talks with officials in Barcelona when he stated that the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait is a precondition for resolving the Gulf crisis, that there is no scope for a compromise, and that

Iraq must first withdraw from Kuwait. President Gorbachev also warned Baghdad against misinterpreting the Soviet Union's endeavors to prevent war and stressed that Iraq must not consider this serious collective and bilateral search for a peaceful solution to the crisis a sign of weakness or laxity in implementing the Security Council resolutions.

The second reason is that Primakov's mission utterly failed in making Saddam Husayn change his stand on the crisis. A statement by the Soviet Embassy in Baghdad said that the Soviet envoy's mission has failed to elicit any response, even though the talks were held in a very cordial atmosphere and the two sides exchanged views. The Iraqi side also described the talks with Primakov as profound and very useful.

In this tragic atmosphere where the Soviets did not find any way to get through to the thinking of the Iraqi leadership so that it will change its stand on the Gulf crisis, and while Saddam Husayn is insisting on the complete annexation of Kuwait, President Gorbachev asked the Arab countries to do something to contain the crisis. President Mubarak replied to this Soviet request with the following question: Have the Soviets reached something definite that would require an Arab summit to discuss a specific issue? President Mubarak answered his own question by saying that nothing positive will emerge if there is no new and clear Iraqi stand.

We ask again: What are the Soviet Union's objectives? The answer could be one of several possibilities. The first is that the Soviets are eager to act in the crisis so that the United States will not monopolize the limelight and so that some world public opinion sectors will become convinced that Moscow still remains committed to the peace policy despite the temptations that might push it toward joining Washington in a military action that would be greatly beneficial to it. Naturally, the Soviets want the slogan of peace in a crisis such as the Gulf to be reflected in future Soviets' relations, specifically, with the European countries, so that everyone will be convinced that Moscow is not a threat to anyone.

The second possibility is that the recent Soviet moves in the Gulf crisis intend to raise doubt, fear, and worry in the Western countries and the international community about having any single power monopolizing hegemony over the world because this monopoly might lead to conflicts that are not in the interests of anyone. This is particularly true because Washington fears Saddam's attempts with some Western countries to release their nationals, since this would crumble the strength of the camp opposing the Iraqi invasion.

Despite all these maneuvers, world public opinion is still waiting for the decision to resolve this crisis before the Christmas holidays, because everyone refuses to let aggression continue by imposing itself disdainfully on international legitimacy.

Envoy to Israel Denies Seeking PLO Alternative

TA0711161990 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
6 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, has affirmed that there is absolutely no basis to reports carried by some Israeli news media to the effect that Egypt is searching for an alternative leadership to the PLO to represent the Palestinian people, because Egypt regards the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Extremist Groups Linked to Foreign Backers

PM0811145190 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
3 Nov 90 pp 1-2

[Report by Wajdi Zayn-al-Din: "Security Organs Reveal Details of Extremist Groups' Financing"]

[Text] AL-WAFD exclusively publishes the details of the operations to finance extremist groups to undermine security and stability in the country. The Interior Ministry has prepared a report on the links between extremist groups in Egypt and financing sources in some Arab, European, and American states.

Informed security sources have emphasized that the terrorist groups which assassinated [People's Assembly Speaker] Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and his companions receive money from extremist religious groups in Jordan and material support from the PLO.

AL-WAFD has learned that extremist groups in Pakistan and Tunis allocate regular funds to the extremist groups in Egypt.

The Interior Ministry's report covers the Egyptian extremists' links with financing sources in the Iraqi Ba'th Party. Some extremists received extensive military training in Sudan.

AL-WAFD has also learned that the Interior Ministry is studying the link in some extremists' travel to the United States over the past three months. The sources emphasized that there are agreements concluded with some extremist U.S. groups.

The report also includes the movements of some Egyptian extremists during their stay in the British capital, London.

AL-WAFD has learned that the Interior Ministry's report did not miss the compulsory donations imposed by extremist organizations on members.

Interior Minister Major General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa is expected to present a comprehensive report on this to the political leadership within the next few weeks.

Libya

JANA Reports on Nonaligned Group Peace Plan

*LD0711204490 Tripoli JANA in English
1634 GMT 7 Nov 90*

[Text] New York, Al-Harth [November] 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The non-aligned group at the United Nations presented a peace project which is based in essence from the Libyan initiative to resolve the Gulf crisis.

This peace project, in a number of its articles, states the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, the lifting of economic embargo imposed against Iraq, the withdrawal of foreign troops from the Arab region and the sending of U.N. forces to Kuwait. The peace project was presented by Yemen, Malaysia, Cuba and Colombia.

Soviet Envoy's Address Marks GOSR Anniversary

*LD0811012490 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
2016 GMT 7 Nov 90*

[Address to the Libyan people by Pogos Semenovich Akopov, the Soviet ambassador to Libya, on the 73d anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution on 7 November; place not given—recorded in Russian with superimposed Arabic translation]

[Excerpts] Respected citizens of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah; dear friend: Today we are celebrating the 73d anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution [GOSR] which inaugurated a new era in peoples' struggle against colonialism's old structures and laid the cornerstone for the building of our state. [passage omitted]

You know very well the changes we have achieved in foreign policy; that is, the creation of an international balance based upon the principles of the new political thinking leading to a peaceful solution to all existing problems in accordance with international norms, removing the danger of war, and culminating in the establishment of a firm, solid, and just peace in the world.

The experience we have gained since the application of perestroyka in international affairs, as well as the success and the achievements which the international community has scored along this path, cannot be doubted and should be taken as convincing proof that the best solution for all problems should be found through the collective efforts of all countries, including bilateral relations.

I am very optimistic about the progress in bilateral cooperation in all fields and the progress regarding reciprocal benefits between the Soviet Union and Libya. I believe that such cooperation [words indistinct] will continuously and firmly benefit the interests of our two peoples as well as progress every year. [passage omitted]

Jallud, Iranian Envoy Discuss Gulf Crisis

*LD0811094690 Tehran IRNA in English
0702 GMT 8 Nov 90*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8 (IRNA)—Iran's Ambassador to Libya Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Reza Nuri Shahrudi met with the Libyan member of the Revolutionary Command Council Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud in Tripoli Wednesday.

During the meeting the two sides discussed the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region, a report said here Thursday. The senior Libyan official and the Iranian ambassador also underlined the need for expansion and further deepening of the existing amicable bilateral relations.

Al-Qadhdhafi Telephones Tunisian President

*LD0711232990 Tripoli JANA in English
1615 GMT 7 Nov 90*

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Nov, JANA/Arab Maghreb Union's Pool—The leader of the revolution established today a telephone contact with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of the Republic of sisterly Tunisia congratulating him and the Arab people of Tunisia on the 3rd. anniversary of November 7—the day [word indistinct] Tunisia retained its Islamic-Arab face and its role in building Arab [word indistinct].

Morocco

Hassan Delivers Speech on Green March Anniversary

*LD0711114390 Rabat RTM Television Network
in Arabic 2133 GMT 6 Nov 90*

[Address to the nation by King Hassan II from the royal palace in Rabat on 6 November—live]

[Excerpts] Thanks be to God and peace and prayers be upon our Lord, the messenger of God, his kinfolks and companions, dear people. Today, we mark the 15th anniversary of the Green March. [passage omitted] Once again I appeal to our sons and subjects who live behind our eastern and southern borders to tell them: Yes, we are proceeding on the road to the referendum, which we want, but we prefer a formal [suwari] referendum, not one which will make us wrangle. What does "formal" mean? It does not mean false; it means that which comes to crown all joining their authentic homeland. Once again I say to our sons behind the eastern and southern borders: it is not at all possible for a country with 100,000 creatures to survive with meager means. It is impossible for it to survive and grow. It will become a burden on the continent, on the one hand, and a medieval or a prehistoric relic, as I have said, on the other. Therefore, I tell you all: if you want to come now, I beg you to say yes on referendum day. At any rate, the majority will be those who want to join Morocco. You have two options: you can either return before [the referendum], or say yes on referendum day in order not to be there a victor and a vanquished, and so that I, the first servant of this country and its spiritual father, can embrace in one embrace all Moroccans, rebels and non-rebels. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

The Arab nation is in disarray, and the Islamic nation is in pain and fragmented. It is impossible for us to bring them back together, unite the ranks, enlist wills, and mass capabilities unless every Arab country and every member of the Islamic family is perfect, strong, has a clear conscience, harbors good intentions, and is strong in his determination. The Prophet, prayers and peace be upon him, has stated: "God loves a strong Muslim more than a weak Muslim." Dear people, we must all realize that there are two objects before us: one, internal, namely, to march forward with firm steps on the road of development, prosperity, employment, and the honoring of youth and the helping of the aged who have rendered services to their homeland. At the same time, we must use our material and intellectual capital to help the Arab nation and the Islamic family to come out of this impasse, whose consequences we hope will last for a very short period of time, though personally I, your optimistic slave, or rather your optimistic servant, believe that with all optimism, we must estimate that emerging from this Arab-Islamic crisis and impasse will require at least 10 years.

For this reason, on this day, the day of the anniversary and pride, the day of the epoch, the day of unity, we must not live as selfish people. We must focus our eyes on the future and on our problems and on the sacrifices we should offer to our Islamic family and Arab nation and the help we should give to restore things to their previous status.

Before concluding, I want, my dear people, to thank you for the love and attachment you have shown toward your king and servant in the past few days. Thus, dear people, you have lived up to our expectations. [passage omitted] Things have been said about me. It is not what was said that bothered me. What bothered me is what bothered you, dear people, that what was said was broadcast over government radio and television networks which could have refrained from broadcasting it.

It was said that I was a fool. It follows that we Moroccans were foolish in this matter; to think 40 years, or rather, 60 years ago that we could liberate ourselves from the French at a time when we did not have any army, any security, any money, or any arms. One would have to be a fool to believe that he could expel the French under such circumstances. Yet, we succeeded in evicting the French.

And also, to think that 350,000, carrying God's book in their right hands and the flag in their left, decided to march out and return our Sahara to us. [sentence as heard] From this it appears that our foolishness, we the Moroccans, was political, the foolishness of inspired people. If this was our foolishness, then I pray to God to give us more of it. Anyway, this foolishness has enabled us to evict the French and retrieve our Sahara and has also enabled us to force those who sought to oppress us to return to their reason and conscience. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Leaves for PRC, Japan Visit

EA0711172690 Khartoum SUNA in French
1630 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 6 November (SUNA)—General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, left this afternoon for Beijing to start a visit of several days to the PRC and Japan. During the visit, Gen. al-Bashir will examine economic and technical cooperation and regional and international issues of common interest with officials from both countries.

The Sudanese delegation includes Mr. 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, minister of foreign affairs; Mr. 'Abd al-Rahim Hamdi, minister of finance and economic planning; Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, minister of commerce, cooperation, and supply; and Major Gen. Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan, minister of state for defense. Maj. Gen. al-Zubair Muhammad Salih, vice chairman of the RCC, RCC and cabinet members, and staff members of the Chinese and Japanese Embassies in Khartoum saw Gen. al-Bashir off at Khartoum Airport.

Chinese Reportage on Visit

WA0711182590

For Chinese reportage on the visit to China by Sudanese leader General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, including reports on his talks with Yang Shangkun, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 7 November and subsequent issues of the China DAILY REPORT.

All Sudanese To Receive Military Training

EA0711200890 Khartoum SUNA in English
1018 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 7 November (SUNA)—The leadership of the Popular Defence [Forces, PDF] has prepared a plan for implementing the directives of the chairman of the Revolution Command Council, General 'Umar al-Bashir, that called for the training of all the Sudanese people to carry arms in five years time, announced the commander of the PDF, Brigadier Babikr 'Abd al-Hamud. Brig. 'Abd al-Hamud, addressing a graduation ceremony of more than a thousand Popular Defence infantry troops in Bahr al-Arab sector, affirmed their commitment to complete the training of 150,000 of the PDF before the second anniversary of the salvation revolution [30 June 1991]. It is to be recalled that nearly 40,000 of the PDF have up to now received military training.

SPLA Reports Capture of Government Garrison

EA0711193690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces in Western Bahr al-Ghazal under the direct command of 1st Lieutenant Chief William Didi Bonio captured Abulo and Daym Zubayr garrisons last week. First Lt. William

Didi Bonio and 2d Lt. Chief (Chemi al-Chan), who had come to SPLA headquarters with Fertit recruits two years ago arrived back home recently. On their arrival, the Fertit militia forces in Abulo deserted the government and joined the SPLA forces under the direct command of 1st Lt. Chief William Didi Bonio, and together the forces advanced and overran the strategic town of Daym Zubayr. It is to be recalled that some of the Fertit people in Western Bahr al-Ghazal were armed and recruited into militias by the government in Khartoum.

In a message to Radio SPLA, the chairman and commander in chief of SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/SPLA], Comrade John Garang de Mabior, has warmly congratulated 1st Lt. Chief William Didi Bonio and the forces in the area and appealed for reconciliation among the Fertit, Jur of Chuol, and Dinka to forget the past and open a new brotherly page and for all to join the SPLM/SPLA, which belongs to all the Sudanese people.

Nigerian Aid for Earthquake Victims Arrives

EA0811100590 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1410 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Nigerian relief assistance to the people affected by the Eastern Equatoria earthquake in May 1990 arrived in Khartoum yesterday. This aid is worth $1 million. Brigadier Pio Yukwan, Revolution Command Council member and supervisor general of the Southern Council, disclosed this in a press statement to AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH yesterday. He said there is a plan to distribute the food to those affected. Brig. Yukwan said that relief operations were going on systematically and normally in all southern regions. He also said there is another plan to store food for those affected.

Regarding the Renk area, because of the continued influx of migrants—totalling more than those in Southern Kurdufan—he said proper arrangements have been made in their region and that agricultural production will increase by 50 percent this year. Brig. Yukwan said preparations have been made to plant wheat in the Renk area.

RCC Member, German Envoy Discuss Food Shortage

EA0711160490 Khartoum SUNA in French 1635 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 6 November (SUNA)—This morning Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], received his excellency the ambassador of Germany to Sudan. The meeting centered on the food situation in Sudan in light of the country's food shortage. The ambassador affirmed that his country was ready to grant all possible aid to Sudan, notably food aid. They also examined German aid projects in Equatoria Province in agriculture, health, and education. It is worth noting that a team of German experts is now visiting Juba.

IMF Delegation To Review Economic Program

EA0711151090 Khartoum SUNA in English 0953 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 7 November (SUNA)—A technical mission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) arrived here yesterday in order to be acquainted with the process of the three-year economic rescue programme which considered as the proposed programme which would be presented by Sudan to the IMF in the next period, the daily "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH" today reported. [sentence as received] The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning will present to the mission a detailed report on the country's financial performance during the first three months of fiscal year 1990/1991 budget which began last July.

Al-Bashir Names New Ambassador to Namibia

EA0711170690 Khartoum SUNA in French 1640 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 6 November (SUNA)—General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, [words indistinct] His Excellency 'Abd al-Mun'im Mustafa, to leave Khartoum for Windhoek. Mr. Mustafa, the new Sudanese ambassador to Namibia, pointed out that Sudan gave particular attention to its relations with all the countries of southern Africa, notably Namibia. Sudan opened an embassy in Namibia as soon as its independence was declared.

Tunisia

President's Speech Marks 7 Nov Anniversary

LD0711195590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0914 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Address by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on 7 November at the Carthage Palace of Government on the third anniversary of the 7 November movement ousting President Habib Bourguiba—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Citizens, on 7 November we vowed to you that we would make the utmost efforts to put right the conditions in the country and to build it up in various fields. We drew up a complete plan to achieve this objective. We began to unhesitatingly implement it, firmly and earnestly. We opened the door for all the dynamic forces in the country so they could make their contribution if they truly want to realize change on a joint, daily basis.

We can say, from a position of responsibility and self-confidence, that we have managed to realize a great deal in various fields. The result, despite difficulties and natural, material, circumstantial, and structural pressures, is positive considering the time and effort made to achieve it. Results do not all appear in a short time.

Today, when our country is looking to the coming decade, it is resolved to meet these challenges in light of the deep developments in the international arena and the important social changes in all levels of Tunisian society. By virtue of its distinguished geographical position, its manpower, and its civilizing overall balance, Tunisia must work to avoid the negative aspects of these developments and employ available capabilities to serve the national economy and raise our standing among the nations. [passage omitted]

Citizens, because we were resolved to enable the Tunisian man to advance in all fields, our resolve was equal in strengthening Tunisia's radiance among the nations and lifting its prestige among them. In this, we have ensured that we follow a course of constant action to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation with various countries, as our contribution to strengthening the international foundations of detente, accord, world peace, and security.

We have striven firmly and resolutely since the emergence of the new era to entrench the foundations of our personality and our deep- rooted origin. Inspired by our historical and geographical affiliations, we worked to project our Arab and Islamic identity, shining bright within the framework of a civilizing model that combines our deep-rooted heritage and the requirements of the open- door policy, benefiting from the means of progress. It responds to the traditions of our country, which throughout the stages of our long history has been a land for enriching civilizations. [passage omitted]

Our country proved its complete commitment to these values and principles through the clear stand it adopted toward the Gulf. Since the outbreak of the crisis, we hastened to try to come to grips with it. We called for tackling it within an Arab framework in order to avoid complex situations, as well as the serious aggravations resulting from it that we see today in the Arab and international areas. [applause]

We have worked, and we are still working, in this direction to intensify our contacts with our Arab brothers and to intensify our moves in the international arena to persuade all the concerned parties of the need to avoid war and make way for Arab efforts to find a peaceful solution which safeguards the supreme interests of our nation. This will prevent the danger to the area and the world of entering a vicious cycle with dire consequences.

Citizens, we regret to see that the Arab world is the first to suffer from the negative aspects of this crisis. It has deepened still further its differences, as a result of not allowing more room for consultations, patience, and the exchange of opinions. One aspect of these negative attitudes is the state the Arab League has reached. We used to see it, and we want it to see it, as the house of all Arabs and their refuge in times of peril. But, instead, this crisis is nearly engulfing it. It has turned into a place for applying pressure and bargaining. Suddenly, it has been called upon, against its will, to break the consensus of the resolutions of its members. Tunisia, which responded to the decision to transfer it within an Arab consensus according to a schedule determined by all, does not see any justification for this insistence on being autocratic in opinion and decision. It is not in the League's interest to quickly transfer it at a time when all attention should be given to the basic issues and to anything that helps to overcome differences and resolving the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian issue. [applause]

If we adhere to what was agreed, we will also adhere to the interests of our country and its dignity, and to safeguarding the rights of those who work in the League, in light of the services Tunisia gave to the Arab nation and its institutions by supporting it and by ensuring that it remains independent and radiant.

Citizens, we are continuing our efforts to solve the Gulf crisis. We believe the world today is earnestly called upon to settle the Middle East issue justly and comprehensively, and to enable the Palestinian people to recover their rights and establish their independent state on their own soil.

While we salute with esteem and appreciation the enormous sacrifices of the gallant intifadah in the occupied areas, and while we assert our stand alongside its steadfast heroes in defense of right, the land, and the sacred shrines, we call upon world society and the United Nations organization to make a decisive, speedy move to end the abominable Zionist practices and to enable our Palestinian brothers to recover their legitimate rights. [applause] We are certain that the atmosphere of international detente and accord will not bear the desired fruits until this issue is settled—a settlement long overdue and whose dimensions have become so intricate.

Citizens, since the change of 7 November, we placed before us and in the forefront of our priorities the work to establish a unified Arab Maghreb embodying the dream of our successive generations. Thanks be to God and thanks to our will this has become a reality we cherish and work for, entrenching its foundation earnestly and enthusiastically.

In this framework, with our brother leaders of the Maghreb states we made our utmost efforts during our chairmanship of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] to make further contributions to this ambitious project, in order to realize its aims. We have made promising steps along this long road. We are certain that the AMU will continue its march. Therefore, we look forward to all that leads to more rapprochement and integration of our nations, and that defends its interests against the challenges of the age. We believe the prospects of the integration efforts are numerous: abolishing frontiers, free movement between our regions with only identity cards like that achieved between Tunisia and the Jamahiriyah [Libya], unification of laws, education programs, common transportation, and so on and so forth.

Within the framework of our continuous efforts to strengthen the ties of cooperation with our direct geographical environment, we have worked at the national level to entrench our relations with Africa. We also paid much attention to our relations with Europe, which is going through basic transformations with a direct impact on our relations with it generally, and with the EEC in particular. The EEC is approaching the unification of its currency and market.

In this direction, we have tried, along with our efforts to develop our bilateral cooperation with this community, to concentrate on the building of foundations of a new collective dialogue and cooperation between the AMU and the EEC. The results of this dialogue were somewhat encouraging. Some sides called for convening a Mediterranean conference on security and cooperation, similar to the European Security and Cooperation Conference. While we welcome this call, we believe that the success of such a conference remains commensurate with settling the issues which still rage in the Mediterranean, particularly the Middle East issue and the Gulf issue.

Citizens, the upshot of what Tunisian diplomacy realized during the last 3 years in the way of achievements gives rise to satisfaction. It was a true mirror and direct reflection of what was achieved at home. We are determined to give it dynamism and make it succeed in order to strengthen the radiance of our country and its bright position in international fora, and to enrich its position at African and world levels. This will also let it shoulder its full role in supporting the just causes and in strengthening security and peace in the world. Thus, we will secure for our country some of what it aspires to, at home and abroad, thanks to the complementing plan that we have prepared. We have begun to gradually implement this since 7 November, by adopting a comprehensive development course based in the economic field on freedom of initiative and the transparency of action and on strength and achievements. This is also based on stronger social services founded on educational and cultural reforms which entrench the rites of our tolerant faith and enliven and develop our Arab and Islamic civilizing values. These enrich and develop our modern civil achievements in a political atmosphere based on national reconciliation and the realization of the national accord in light of the role of law and democratic institutions.

Our belief is that we have arrived at the proper road. The result is positive in all fields. It is in the power of us all to realize more by doubling our efforts and increasing our commitment to serving the interest of the homeland and placing this above all other considerations.

God almighty has said: Then on that day not a soul will be wronged in the least and ye shall but be repaid the rewards of your past deeds. [koranic verse] Peace and blessings of God be upon you. [applause]

Western Sahara

Polisario Front's Mohamed Abdelaziz Interviewed

PM0811100490 Paris LE MONDE in French
7 Nov 90 p 7

[Georges Marion report on interview with Mohamed Abdelaziz, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro on 1 November; place not given]

[Text] Tindouf—In an interview with LE MONDE granted on 1 November, before Mrs. Mitterrand had officially canceled her visit to Tindouf, Mohamed Abdelaziz, secretary general of the Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro], blamed Rabat for blocking the process that should lead the Saharans to self-determination.

He had clearly read with pleasure Gilles Perrault's book on the Cherifian monarch [King Hassan]; clearly also the controversy between France and Morocco does not cause him much distress: "Morocco," he said with a mischievous glint in his eye, "would have done better to give proper answers to the questions put by the author, particularly with regard to human rights, instead of avoiding the issue and blaming France." Some 4,000 km from the French capital, amid the sands around Tindouf, a small town in southeastern Algeria, Paris has a steadfast defender in Mohamed Abdelaziz, 41, president of a frail Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR) and secretary general of the Polisario Front.

Mrs. Mitterrand's Compassion

Married with four children, the Polisario secretary general, dressed in khaki like Fidel Castro but with a Lenin-style beard, receives his guests at night, chain smoking and sipping mint tea, speaking barely audibly. He was flanked by three aides, very respectful and efficient. The atmosphere was austere, weighed down further by the slowness of the translation from Arabic.

The previous day a convoy from France-Libertes, an organization presided over by Mrs. Danielle Mitterrand [wife of French president] delivered 40 tonnes of aid in the form of medical and educational supplies. Mr. Abdelaziz could not find adequate words of enthusiasm for "the compassion" of a lady whose "generosity, courage, and attachment to human rights" have made it possible to "bring hope." According to Polisario leaders based in Tindouf, the camps established in Algeria along the border of the former Spanish Sahara acommodate 165,000 refugees. Among these must be counted 15,000 fighters at the bases "yonder," that is, in the "free territory," as it is usually called, in accordance with the official theory that the armed attacks on Moroccan troops do not originate from Algerian territory. All of them—both unarmed refugees and the armed fighters—depend on foreign aid for their food and clothing. No wonder the France-Libertes convoy—the first French initiative on this scale—was appreciated in Tindouf.

"Last April, the UN secretary general asked us to help him, among other things by reducing our military activities until he can formulate a peace plan," Mr. Abdelaziz explained. "Since that date, we have adopted a provisional and unilateral truce in our military activities." Indeed, the attacks which the Saharan forces were making on Moroccan soldiers dug in behind the high walls which now surround almost all the disputed territory have ceased.

However, this truce does not seem to have had the desired effects. Officially, the Polisario and Morocco agreed long ago to settle their dispute by a referendum on self-determination. But, despite the routine resolutions adopted in the United Nations, the referendum has still not been organized. "Several points have been agreed between us and Morocco," Mr. Abdelaziz also explained. "There is agreement on the wording of the question which could be asked in the referendum: "Are you in favor of independence or integration into Morocco? There is agreement on the nature of the electorate to be summoned to the polls: It will be the 74,000 Saharans counted in the 1973 Spanish census; finally, there is agreement on responsibility for organizing the referendum: It will be entrusted to the United Nations."

What is the cause of the apparent deadlock? "It is caused by the fact that there is disagreement on how many of the Moroccan military and administration would be allowed to remain in the country during the referendum," the Polisario leader said. "We cannot accept that foreign military forces, more numerous than the electorate itself, should remain. That would exert unacceptable pressure on the voting."

If this deadlock persisted, "we would be prepared to resume fighting immediately until independence is gained," Mr. Abdelaziz said. But this is clearly not the scenario he favors. The SDAR president said: The development of the international scene is interesting. It should exert pressure on the king to seek a solution because he can no longer play on East-West confrontation. The regional situation is also positive in our view. How can we conceive of a border conflict in the West Sahara when Maghreb unity is being built? Finally, we must take account of the international consensus, which clearly favors a peaceful and political rather than a military solution. Necessity dictates what course to follow. We remember Namibia where international solidarity combined with diplomatic pressures forced South Africa to organize the referendum on self-determination which we are demanding for the Saharan people.

Bahrain

U.S. Navy Secretary Arrives in Manama 5 Nov

JN0511170390 Manama WAKH in English 1640 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, Nov 5 (GNA)—U.S. Secretary of the Navy H. Lawrence Garrett III arrived here this evening on a visit to Bahrain. Garrett will hold discussions on the current developments in the region, issues of mutual interest and bilateral relations.

Meets With Defense Minister

JN0611133590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0935 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 6 Nov (WAKH)—Major General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of Bahrain's Defense Force, met with Lawrence Garrett III, U.S. secretary of the Navy, here today.

During the meeting the two sides reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf, the promotion of bilateral cooperation, and issues of common interest. Chief of Staff Brigadier General Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain Charles Hostler, and the assistant chief of staff attended the meeting.

Saudi Defense Minister Arrives in Bahrain 8 Nov

JN0811095690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 8 Nov (WAKH)—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi 2d deputy prime minister, minister of Defense and Aviation, and inspector general, arrived in Manama at noon today on a two-day visit to Bahrain. Prince Sultan will hold talks with top Bahraini officials on the warm fraternal relations that exist between the two countries, the latest developments in the region, and issues of mutual interest.

Prince Sultan was welcomed on arrival at the airport by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister; His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force; Dr. Ghazi al-Qusaybi, Saudi ambassador to Bahrain; ministers; and state and military officials.

Meets With Amir

JN0811163390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1210 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 8 Nov (WAKH)—This afternoon in Manama His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain; Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister; and His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, received Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the accompanying delegation, now visiting the State of Bahrain.

Prince Sultan conveyed to his highness the amir of Bahrain the greetings of his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and the king's wishes for his highness' good health and well-being.

The amir of Bahrain expressed appreciation for the visit and told the prince to convey his greetings to his brother King Fahd Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and to Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, heir apparent, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and commander of the National Guard, and to thank them for their continued interest in his highness' health.

His highness the amir of Bahrain praised the distinguished relations between the two countries under the wing of the custodian of the two holy mosques, and the care and attention Bahrain has always been given by the Saudi monarch.

His highness the amir noted the clear, constant positions of Saudi Arabia toward our basic issues, which are of concern to the Arabian Gulf region and the Arab and Islamic nations, as well as the Kingdom's support for security, stability, affluence, and peace in the region.

The audience was attended by Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister; Muhammad Bin-Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, prince of Saudi Arabia's eastern region; and Dr. Ghazi 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Qusaybi, ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the State of Bahrain.

Amir Receives Message From Romanian President

JN0411214090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1245 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 4 Nov (WAKH)—Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah has received a message from Romanian President Ion Iliescu. The message deals with relations between the two countries and issues of common interest. Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah received the message when he received Romanian Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Teodor Milscanu here today.

The minister discussed with Milscanu relations between Romania and Bahrain and the means of promoting them in the political and economic fields, in addition to promoting cooperation between the two countries in all fields. They also reviewed the situation in the region, the serious developments resulting from the Iraqi military invasion of Kuwait, and the regional and international arrangements that have been made to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and to reinstitute its legitimate government, represented by Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Kuwait

Amir Receives PRC Foreign Minister in Al-Ta'if

LD0711194190 London KUNA in Arabic 1810 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 7 Nov (KUNA)—Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen met [word indistinct] today the Amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and conveyed to him a message from Chinese President Yang Shangkun on the (?situation) in the Gulf region and on relations between the two friendly countries and peoples. [passage indistinct]

Prime Minister, Defense Minister Visit Troops

LD0711202390 London KUNA in Arabic 1652 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Hafr al-Batin, 7 Nov (KUNA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister of Kuwait, praised the Kuwaiti Armed Forces' courage in confronting the sudden and treacherous Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In an address to the Kuwaiti forces in the Hafr al-Batin region yesterday he said that the world accords the Kuwaiti Armed Forces every appreciation and admiration. He recalled that the Kuwaiti forces were surprised by the thousands of tanks, missiles, aircraft, and artillery, and pointed to their steadfastness and confrontation. He said: "Iraq's Saddam thought that with this treacherous aggression he could implement his designs and forgot that the small Kuwaiti people are small in numbers but big in ambitions and hopes...and these people cannot in any case accept occupation and capitulation." He confirmed "our slogan is to work for the liberation of Kuwait and to work hand in hand as one for the liberation of Kuwait and the return of the legitimate authority." He stressed that the world "should hear that the sons of Kuwait are fully ready to sacrifice all that is dear, to sacrifice the soul for the liberation of our beloved Kuwait."

His highness the heir apparent was accompanied on this inspection visit by the minister of defense Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir and a number of officers. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Hopes For Peaceful Solution

LD0811132890 Rabat MAP in English 1204 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] London, Nov. 8 (MAP)—Kuwaiti Defence Minister Shaykh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir has expressed hope to see the crisis in the Gulf settled peacefully.

In a statement Wednesday to London-based "AL-HAWADITH" daily, Shaykh Nawwaf said however, a peaceful solution cannot be reached except through application of the resolutions adopted by the Arab League, the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. He said all these had condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and called for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from the emirate.

He said President Saddam Husayn's refusal to comply with the international community's will means he has chosen war.

Minister Demands Inquiry Into 'Inhuman Practices'

PM0711162190 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 5 Nov 90 p 2

[Nawwaf al-Shamri report: "Dr. al-Fawzan Says: Iraqi Forces Destroyed Health Infrastructure and Seized Medicine Factory"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Excerpts] [Kuwaiti] Health Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Fawzan has emphasized that the Iraqi regime's forces have completely destroyed the health infrastructure in Kuwait. He pointed out that Kuwait had done a great for the sake of the comprehensive health advancement in the country, which the world as a whole admired in terms of the medical equipment and the various areas of specialization. [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-ANBA' Al-Fawzan pointed out that Kuwait is still determined to send a WHO [World Health Organization] delegation to the country to brief the Organization on the ugly and inhuman practices committed by the Iraqi regime's forces, including the theft of medical equipment and all kinds of medicines as well as the seizure of the sole Kuwaiti medicines factory.

He also said that the brutal forces have closed clinics and hospitals and that Kuwaiti citizens inside the country are suffering from various diseases. This is in addition to the spread of infectious diseases. No medical care is provided for them and they are denied treatment to force them to submit to the oppressive Iraqi regime's ambitions.

Al-Fawzan emphasized that, despite all these practices, Kuwaiti citizens have proved to the world the Kuwaiti people's steadfastness and adherence to their land and to the legitimate authority represented by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir, and His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, as well as their refusal to surrender.

The health minister also said that the Iraqi regime had refused to allow a WHO delegation to enter the country and that, instead, the health minister of the Iraqi regime had made a strange and disgraceful statement, emphasizing that present health conditions in Kuwait are as they were in the past and have in fact been much better since the invasion.

Al-Fawzan emphasized that all health organizations in the world have condemned the Iraqi invasion and rejected all the decisions issued by the Iraqi leadership with regard to health conditions in Kuwait. And that there is profound world sympathy for and determination to liberate Kuwait, restore Kuwaiti legitimacy, and expel the brutal aggressor, who will reap nothing but disgrace and shame as a result of his ugly action. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy Criticizes Iraqi Information Minister

LD0711230690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2020 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Dhaharn, 7 Nov (SPA)—Kuwait's permanent delegate to the United Nations, Muhammad Abu al-Hasan, has said that Iraq's claim that it will fight to the end in order to keep Kuwait is a blow to those calling for peace and confirms that Iraq's does not pay any attention to the will of the international community. He commented at a press conference last night on the statement by the Iraqi information minister to the effect that Iraq will fight to keep its occupation of Kuwait, by saying that "the statement indicates the type of regime which confronts us." [passage omitted]

Concerning the visit of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to the region, Abu al-Hasan said that the United States is one of the major states with military presence in the region and is committed, like the rest, to putting a quick end to the Iraqi aggression. He explained that Baker's visit was to review the plans for confrontation of the aggression after it was proved that peaceful efforts had not yielded any positive results as yet.

Editorial Asks U.S. To Consider 'Time Factor'

PM0811110190 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 6 Nov 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Baker's Tour and Counting on Time"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] Yesterday's meeting between his highness the amir and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was an extremely important factor in determining the fate of the Gulf crisis in the next decisive phase. Kuwait is unshakably determined to liberate its territory and restore its legitimate authority, relying on its domestic front's unity and support for its wise leadership and on the entire world's support for its just cause and determination to force Iraq to implement the UN Security Council resolutions.

The United States is the leader of the international alliance firmly confronting the Baghdad ruler's aggressive designs. President Bush made a pledge to himself, his people, and the world that the Iraqi tyrant would not reap any fruit from his barbaric invasion of Kuwait and that Washington was determined to eliminate the danger represented by the troops of Saddam and his clique so that this strategic part of the world could enjoy security, safety, and stability.

There can be no doubt that Baker's current tour of Middle Eastern and European capitals and the Soviet Union is tantamount to a final assessment of the situation prior to any possible future move in coordination with all the allies. It also paves the way politically, economically, and militarily for President Bush's visit to the region in the last 10 days of November. With the flow of recent conflicting statements oscillating between the peaceful and the military options, the U.S. Administration had to reexamine all its calculations on the ground and to discuss seriously and in practical terms all options and proposed scenarios before deciding its next decisive step.

Without trying to anticipate events and without being in a hurry to see the results of Baker's tour, we would like the U.S. secretary of state to take into consideration the following two important and fundamental points:

1. The United States is the top superpower in our world today, which means that it has the great responsibility of honoring its world commitments in its capacity as the leader of the international alliance, which is the executive instrument for the establishment of world peace and fulfillment of the UN Scurity Council resolutions calling for the liberation of Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government.

2. The time factor is very important in the Gulf crisis, particularly as all the Iraqi dictator's games and maneuvers are geared toward gaining time under the illusion that that will make his oppressive invasion of Kuwait some kind of fait accompli. In the meantime he escalates his criminal practices and acts of repression, torture, and execution against our steadfast people in Kuwait.

That is why the U.S. secretary of state's current tour, which is the backbone of the current diplomatic offensive, should produce final and specific results that will resolve the Gulf crisis, now in its fourth month. We are confident that the U.S. Administration in general and James Baker in particular are the first to understand this central fact. The U.S. secretary of state has himself recently said that the world's patience with the Iraqi ruler is running out.

Editorial Pronounces Primakov Mission 'Failure'

PM0511154390 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 1 Nov 90 p 1

[Editorial: "To Comrade Primakov"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] In his statement to the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHALI yesterday Soviet envoy Yevgeniy Primakov said the following: We denounce the invasion and occupation and demand the unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi occupation forces. This is a fixed position, and we want to achieve that outcome without recourse to fighting. But if all the peace opportunities were exhausted, the Soviet Union would not oppose a military solution, even though we would take no part in the fighting.

The Soviet peace advocate's statement is clear, specific, and frank, but requires an immediate translation in light of the results of his mission, which lasted longer than needed eventually to arrive at an impasse as a result of Iraq's intransigence and rejection of all prospects for a peaceful solution. The Soviet peace advocate began his tour by visiting Iraq, then embarked on a long tour of Europe, the United States, and the Arab region. He then returned to Baghdad to discover that he was back at square one.

The strange thing is that Primakov still does not want to admit openly and officially the failure of his mission, even though that failure is out of his and the world's hands because it is the result of the arrogance of the autocratic and dictatorial Iraqi leadership which insists on continuing its mad and foolish adventure to the end. And instead of Primakov's telling the world the painful reality about the Iraqi regime's aggressive nature, he continues to float peaceful solution balloons, announcing—without any justification—his adherence to optimism.

We call on Comrade Primakov to read the text of what Iraq's Saddam stated the day before yesterday to the U.S. television network CNN. The ruler of Iraq has once again returned to reiterating his abominable recital launched by his lying media services in the first week of the invasion, as if the world's resolutions, blockade, and deployment of huge military forces have been unable to soften the Iraqi regime's intransigent and rigid mentality, which is refusing to heed the voices of reason, truth, and peace. The Iraqi tyrant says impudently and in blatant defiance of the entire world: Iraqi forces will not withdraw from Kuwait under international pressure, and the embargo against Iraq will not force it to forfeit part of its territory!

On the same day and within the same vicious circle the parrot of Iraqi foreign policy, Tariq 'Aziz, who does only what his master tells him to do, returned the feeble peace efforts to their starting point by repeating the delusions raised by Iraq's dictator in August, 10 days after the brutal invasion, linking the solution of the Gulf crisis to the solution of all issues in the region, including Israel's withdrawal from Palestine!

What does all this mean to Yevgeniy Primakov, the Soviet advocate of a peaceful solution? Does it not mean that his peace efforts have collided with the wall of Iraqi intransigence, which continues to insist on returning the crisis to its early days and which relies on detours and evasions to gain time, without any real intention of submitting to the world's will and the international community's resolutions?

We inform Comrade Primakov of, and repeat to him, what U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said yesterday; namely, that there are limits at which peace efforts must stop. It is not reasonable for the world to keep silent about Saddam's crimes forever. Nor is it logical for the international community to wait indefinitely for the ruler of Iraq to respond to the calls for peace. We also remind the Soviet envoy of what he himself said yesterday. He said: If all the peace opportunities to realize an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal were exhausted, the Soviet Union would not oppose the military solution, even though it would not take part in the fighting.

Resistance Reportedly Poisons 40 Iraqi Soldiers

LD0711231390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2045 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] London, 7 Nov (SPA)—Forty Iraqi soldiers were killed during the last two weeks following the consumption of poisoned food, and scores of others were taken to the hospital for the same reason. According to a statement by the National Committees for the Salvation of Iraq, the heroes of the Kuwaiti resistance were the ones who placed poisonous substances at food storage centers and depots belonging to the Iraqi regime's forces in Kuwait as part of an operation described by the report as "daring".

The Kuwaiti popular resistance has lately intensified its operations against the Iraqi occupation forces which live in a constant state of fear and terror. Meanwhile Saddam Husayn has deployed Iraqi military teams in Kuwait whose task is to carry out collective executions. These groups, known as "execution squads", play a big terrorist role in killing Kuwaiti citizens and Iraqi soldiers who complain and express dissatisfaction. Saddam has used these terrorist squads in the past against the Iraqi people which have suffered much from the oppression and tyranny. The members of the Iraqi execution squads wear masks to prevent identification, but everyone knows they are from the Republican Guard forces which are totally under the control of Saddam as the majority of their members are relatives of Saddam, his aides, and followers.

Kuwaiti Soldiers Urged To Prepare For War

NC0711212290 Paris AFP in English 1945 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, Nov 7 (AFP)—Exiled Kuwaiti Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah Wednesday urged Kuwaiti soldiers deployed in Saudi Arabia to prepare for war against Iraq to recover their country.

"The whole world must know that the Kuwaitis are ready to make sacrifice to liberate their country," Shaykh Sa'd told units of the Kuwaiti army during an inspection tour in Hafr al-Batin in northeastern Saudi Arabia.

"The forthcoming battle demands that we make more sacrifices," he added in a statement carried by the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA received here.

The exiled Kuwaiti leadership has rebuilt part of its troops following Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait with an unspecified number of troops deployed in Hafr al-Batin, 70 kilometers (43 miles) from the Iraqi border. Shaykh Sa'd, in an interview published Wednesday by the Bahraini newspaper Al-Ayyam, stressed that Iraqi troops occupying Kuwait could only be dislodged by force.

"We can fairly say that the peaceful option no longer exists and that we are left only with the military option," he said and blamed Iraq for its "obstinate defiance of international opinion" and any outbreak of war in the Gulf.

He also reiterated that it was useless for Arab leaders to hold a summit on the Gulf crisis, saying: "The Arab solution exists already."

Shaykh Sa'd recalled that the Arab summit of August 10 had denounced the invasion and urged the re-establishment of legitimate Kuwaiti authority. "The Iraqi president should implement this Arab solution," said Shaykh Sa'd.

He also also denied press reports that senior Soviet envoy Yevgeniy Primakov last month carried the exiled Kuwaiti leadership a message from Iraqi authorities listing their conditions for a withdrawal from Kuwait.

Moscow and Baghdad have also denied that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn told Mr. Primakov he would leave the emirate if he could keep the Kuwaiti islands of Warba and Bubiyan in the northern Gulf and the strategic al-Rumaylah oilfield.

Mr. Primakov in a newspaper interview published by the Saudi daily Al-Sharq Al-Awsat on Wednesday voiced "optimism" over a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. Mr. Primakov, who has been to Iraq twice in October for talks with President Husayn, said he had "not lost faith in the possibility of reaching a peaceful solution forcing Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait."

Qatar

Romanian Public Works Minister Arrives on Visit

Calls For Iraqi Withdrawal

JN0211214090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1905 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, 2 Nov (WAKH)—Doru Pana, Romanian minister of public works, transportation and territorial organization, arrived in Doha with a delegation this evening on a visit to Qatar in the course of a regional tour. On hand to welcome him on arrival was Qatar's Minister of Industry and Public Works Ahmad al-Subay'i, along with senior officials of the Ministry.

In a statement to QNA, the Romanian minister said his visit seeks to further enhance bilateral ties. He called the Iraqi invasion of Kuwiat a clear violation of the sovereignty of an independent state, and demanded that Iraq comply with UN Security Council resolutions in the interest of a quick resolution of the crisis. The Romanian minister reiterated his country's abidance by all these resolutions.

Holds Talks With Amir

JN0311204190 Manama WAKH in English 1605 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, Nov 3 (GNA)—The amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani today met here today with the Romanian Public Works and Transport Minister Doru Pana. The audience was attended by the Heir Apparent and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Industry and Public Works Minister Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali al-Subayti and members of the delegation accompanying the Romanian minister.

QATAR NEWS AGENCY said that discussion dealt with developments in the Gulf region and the regional and world repercussions of the Gulf crisis sparked by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The Romanian minister underlined his country's support for the implementation of the Security Council resolutions calling for the immediate withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti authority led by the amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah. The talks also covered ways to bolster cooperation ties between Qatar and Romania in various fields.

Senegal's Foreign Minister Arrives 3 Nov

JN0311091390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, 3 Nov (WAKH)—Senegal's Foreign Minister Seydina Oumar Sy arrived in Doha this morning on a short visit to Qatar. The Senegalese foreign minister's visit is part of his current tour of the region.

Delivers Message

JN0311114790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, 3 Nov (WAKH)—Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir met here today with Senegalese Foreign Minister Seydina Oumar Sy. They discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote and develop them in all fields, in addition to the latest developments of the situation in the Gulf.

The foreign minister of Senegal left later today following a short visit to Qatar as part of his current tour of the region. During his visit, Seydina Oumar Sy delivered a message to Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani from President Abdou Diouf of Senegal dealing with the latest developments of the Gulf crisis.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sultan Reaffirms Stance on Kuwait

LD0711134390 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz last night gave a dinner banquet at Hajar Palace at al-Ahsa' in honor of the citizens who called to bid him welcome to their region. [passage omitted]

Prince Sultan gave the following address to the citizens: [passage omitted] Those newspapers and people who talk in the Arabic language which we respect about the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's stances should first look at the Kingdom's past and present stances and its Islamic, Arab, and human attitudes. [sentence as heard] But we pay no attention to those who suffer from deep-rooted grudges, ignorance of Islam, and who renege on Arabism.

I wish, however, to state briefly that we will not deviate from the objective of restoring legitimacy to Kuwait, and under no circumstances will we deviate from the need for the Iraqis to return to their homeland and for the fraternal Iraqi soldiers to return to the basic missions of serving their homeland Iraq, and supporting the Palestine cause for which we all are responsible before God.

The international resolutions which have denounced this treacherous aggression and the law of the jungle in the present civilized age, should suffice to tell the aggressor to return to his country and to enjoy life in his country, and to be a supporter of the Arab nation and not a supporter of the enemies of the Arab nation.

Hence, as the custodian of the two holy mosques has affirmed, the Saudi Arabian Kingdom adheres to the resolutions of the Arab Summit conference, the Islamic nation, and the United Nations.

We will not retract this stance, and it was for this reason that we asked our Arab and Muslim brothers and the peace-loving friendly countries to support our efforts and amass forces to serve the cause of peace and not to seek war.

As everyone knows, there is no victor or vanquished in wars. It is for this that we are Muslims and believe in peace and in good work, fraternity, and tolerance. However, there is a limit to everything and every stance has its due regard. Some might feel that the present position through which we are living has gone on too long but peace, however long it takes, is the hope of every Muslim Arab.

For this reason, we pray to God Almighty to endow this country and the Islamic and Arab countries with the blessing of peace, stability, and security and perish the law of the jungle. [passage omitted]

PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen Arrives

LD0711234490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2320 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 7 Nov 90, SPA—Qian Qichen, His Excellency the minister of foreign affairs of People's China, arrived in Riyadh this evening on a visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Meets With Sa'ud al-Faysal

LD0811151190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1347 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Nov (SPA)—Saudi-Sino talks opened this afternoon at the [Saudi] Foreign Ministry in Riyadh. The Saudi side is led by the foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and the Chinese side by the foreign minister of China, Qian Qichen.

Soviet Minister Cited on Economic Relations

LD0711231490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2220 GMT 7 NOv 90

[Text] London, 7 Nov (SPA)—The Soviet foreign economic relations minister, Konstantin Katushev, has expressed optimism for the increase and widening of the volume of economic cooperation and trade exchanges between the kingdom and the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Minister, who visited the Kingdom in the past few days, explained in an interview with AL-MAJALLAH magazine published today that his meeting with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, and his meetings with Saudi officials have confirmed the existence of an intention and determination to widen economic and trade relations as a base or a support for political relations between the kingdom and his country. He went on to say that, in return, there is a determination and commitment on the part of the Soviet side and the Soviet leadership backed by President Gorbachev to develop these relations.

He said that agreement was reached with officials in the kingdom on exchanging trade delegations between the two countries, and he handed them a copy of the document on encouraging trade and cooperation between the two countries.

The Soviet minister expressed his country's wish to participate in big projects in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. At the same time, he welcomed Saudi capital in the Soviet Union. He said that his country enjoys the appropriate conditions for investment.

He pointed to the possibility of the participation of Saudi capital in joint ventures with Soviet companies or the export of certain Saudi manufactured products or the purchase of shares in the Soviet Union. He also reviewed several investment opportunities through which trade and economic relations between the two countries could be strengthened.

Defense Minister Inspects U.S. Forces

LD0711143190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1008 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Al-Ahsa', 7 Nov (SPA) His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, has paid an inspection visit to the U.S. 82d Airborne Division at the division's helicopter site.

On arrival, His Royal Highness was welcomed by the emir of the eastern region, His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad Bin Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz; the commander of the eastern region, Staff Major General Salih al-Muhayya; commander of the king 'Abd al-'Aziz Airbase, Staff Air Brigadier Turki Bin Nasir Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz; commander of the U.S. 82d Division, Major General James Johnson, brigade commander and members of the divisional staff. [passage omitted]

Reviews French Forces

LD0611190990 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Second Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Aviation, and Inspector General, Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz arrived in al-Ahsa' at noon today on a tour of the armed forces sectors; in the eastern region.

He was welcomed at al-Ahsa' airport by the amir of the eastern region, His Royal Highness Muhammad Bin-Fahd-Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz; the amir of al-Ahsa', Muhammad Bin-Fahd, and a number of civilian and military officials.

This afternoon, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz paid an inspection visit to the French forces operating in the area within the framework of the multinational forces. His royal highness rode in an open car and inspected the guard of honor and token units from the French forces. He then inspected the fighter planes deployed in the area. His royal highness heard reports from officers about the structure of the French air forces, citing various examples of the aircraft forming the force.

Afterwards, his royal highness toured the French forces' positions and inspected a number of fighter planes and facilities. His royal highness was accompanied on his tour by the amirs of the eastern region and al-Ahsa' regions; the commander of the joint forces and operations theater, Staff Major General Khalid Bin- Sultan-Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz; princes; the French ambassador to the Kingdom, Jacques Bernard; and a number of officials.

Opposition Groups Prepare for National Congress

JN0811121190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1253 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Holy Lands, 7 Nov (INA)—The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization [munazzamat hizb al-ba'th al-'arabi al-ishtiraki] in the Arabian Peninsula and the Union of the Arabian Peninsula People [ittihad sha'b al-jazirah al-'arabiyah] have agreed to form a preparatory committee whose aim will be to invite various nationalist and honorable forces in the Peninsula to attend a national congress to discuss a draft charter for the National and Pan-Arab Struggle Front in the Arabian Peninsula [jabhat al-nidal al-watani wa al-qawmi fi al-jazirah al-'arabiyah].

A statement issued at the conclusion of meetings held by representatives of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization in the Arabian Peninsula and the Union of the Arabian Peninsula people said that the objective of this front is to unite all nationalist and honorable forces in the Arabian Peninsula within the context of a front to liquidate the U.S. presence and its pillars and also to establish a patriotic and democratic rule that would realize the aspirations and hopes of the Peninsula's people and help them lead a decent life.

The front will also seek to define through its charter its political, economic, and social views in a free Arabian Peninsula. Likewise, it will seek to clarify its perspective regarding the nationalist role that should be played by the valiant armed forces in the Arabian Peninsula and also by a charter on Arab and international politics for the future free Arabian Peninsula.

The two organizations have decided from now on to sign their statements with the name of the Preparatory Committee for the National and Pan-Arab Struggle Front in the Arabian Peninsula. They decided that the first constituent congress of the front will be held within the next six months, with the understanding that the venue and date of the meeting will be set later.

In a statement issued at the conclusion of meetings held between representatives of the two organizations from 1 to 7 October, the two organizations stressed the need to confront the U.S. invasion, liberate the Arabian Peninsula and affirm its right to freedom, independence, and self-determination.

During the meetings, the two organizations considered the danger to the Arabian Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf region in particular, and to the Arab homeland in general by the continuous U.S. threats which are coupled by a direct U.S. military presence that constitutes a direct threat posed to the security and safety of the Arabian Peninsula.

Minister Discusses Egypt's Debts, Yemen Ties

JN0211091090 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 26 Oct 90 pp 52-53

[Interview with Saudi Information Minister Shaykh 'Ali al- Sha'ir by Ahmad Abu-Kaff in Jeddah; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Abu-Kaff] What do you think about the idea of buying Egypt's debts?

[Al-Sha'ir] This subject is in the mind of the Saudi leadership. There are also many other things, which I have always read in the eyes of the brothers, in the mind of the custodian of the two holy mosques. Even amid this crisis, we think about them. I stress to you that the issue of shouldering Egypt's debts is in the mind of the Saudi leadership.

[Abu-Kaff] The problem with Egypt is that it never asks for anything.

[Al-Sha'ir] This demonstrates the greatness of Egypt and its qualities.

[Abu-Kaff] There is so much talk now about the military option despite the fact that the blockade has begun to reap fruits. We also hear now that the military option is out of the question and that peace is the dominant option. Options are changing every now and then. What does Saudi Arabia think?

[Al-Sha'ir] Saudi Arabia has always said it is a peace-loving country, and it always seeks to achieve it. It has always bridged the gaps, resolved problems, and brought the viewpoints closer. This is one of Saudi Arabia's roles. When the catastrophic invasion of Kuwait took place, Saudi Arabia had to call in troops. This means that these troops did not come to Saudi Arabia to wage war, but to hold back any threat against the Kingdom and protect its vital wealth, on which it exists—I mean oil. This also means that these troops came to support the Saudi troops in their defensive stand.

[Abu-Kaff] Some people say: Where are the kingdom's troops, and where were they when Iraqi invaded Kuwait?

[Al-Sha'ir] The kingdom has built a capable, armed, and trained army. It has troops. However, according to the international defense systems, and since the areas are far apart from each other, it is difficult to mass the army and troops in one place because this needs three or four months, while information suggested that Iraq would attack the Saudi borders at any time. [sentence as published]

Regarding asking help from friendly troops, I like to say to those who reject this: If you have a neighbor who believes in a religion different from yours, and, if someone comes to you at night to violate your house and sanctities, would you refuse to ask for help from your neighbor just because he does not belong to your religion? For example, if a fire starts in your house, would you say: Only my coreligionist should come to put out the fire, but the others should not? We must be practical and logical. Saudi Arabia has never wanted war, and it only brought in those troops to prevent the premeditated Iraqi aggression against Saudi Arabia and its wealth.

[Abu-Kaff] It is noticed there is a low war tone in the Saudi press. Why?

[Al-Sha'ir] You must know our positions at the current time. This is because we want to contain things in order not to poison the ideas and have a rational and objective encounter through seminars, the media organs, and the constant rational dialogue. We want to know the position of the pain and give the right medicine.

[Abu-Kaff] There are some people who say: Do not leave Saddam even if he withdraws from Kuwait because he will always constitute a threat?

[Al-Sha'ir] I am the master of my house and the master of my son. If he withdraws his troops from Kuwait, then we will discuss things as they occur. But, as for the statement that we will attack Iraq, this is out of the question. But, if Iraq did not withdraw and insisted on staying, then the decision will not be that of al-Sha'ir or any other official in this country. It will be God's decision, and whatever He wishes, He will do. We beseech God to guide the leaders to the right track. But, what will the leaders do if Iraq insisted on nonwithdrawal, this I do not know. Saddam Husayn's information minister, Latif Nusayyif Jasim, said they will not withdraw from Kuwait and that Kuwait is now part of Iraq. A new map showing Kuwait as part of al-Basrah was published in the papers.

[Abu-Kaff] It is well known that Saudi officials stated that they will not attack Iraq from Saudi territory unless Iraq attacks the Saudi border. What is your comment?

[Al-Sha'ir] I attended all meetings held by the custodian of the two holy mosques, but did not hear him say anything in this regard. What I know quite well is that we called in the friendly forces only after Kuwait had been invaded. That night there was a cabinet meeting, and the custodian of the two holy mosques discussed the situation with his brothers and men. The conferees were unanimous in considering the call for friendly forces a sound measure. The custodian of the two holy mosques then held telephone contacts and the U.S. defense secretary came. We asked for forces from Egypt and the Arab and Islamic countries. This means that we were not preparing these matters in advance.

[Abu-Kaff] What is the problem between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, especially since you responded to 'Ali Salim al-Bid with a strongly-worded statement after he had attacked Saudi Arabia on the conditions of Yemenis in the Kingdom?

[Al-Sha'ir] The truth is different, believe me. Back to the Yemeni question, I would like to say that the Kingdom in the past granted the Yemenis facilities for several reasons, including the fact that they are our neighbors and their country is poor and slow in growth. Saudi Arabia gives special care to Yemen, and I am not bragging when I say that Saudi Arabia spent on developing Yemen half of what it spent on developing itself. By God, I do not exaggerate when I say this. You will be surprised when you see the figures. Saudi Arabia paid the salaries of engineers, physicians, teachers, and craftsmen. It also built and maintained hospitals, universities, roads, and schools. There are a million Yemenis in Saudi Arabia whose monthly hard currency transfers to Yemen amount to half of Yemen's budget.

The question is: Does Saudi Arabia do all this because it fears Yemen and its forces and fleets? Not at all. It wants to prove to it that it harbors good intentions and seeks good-neighborly relations in spite of the harm coming from Yemen and from some of its press.

The privileges given to the Yemenis caused us problems when some other states whose friendship and bonds with us are as strong as those linking us with Yemen asked why aid was being extended to Yemen and not to them. Saudi Arabia said that responding to all would deprive its people of their sustenance, and the Saudi citizen would even not find a job for himself or be hired by those who come to our country. Therefore, Saudi Arabia canceled all facilities granted to its guest workers, and said all are equal. This was before ascending Mount 'Arafat [part of the Hajj ritual in Mecca] in 1988. We were soon told that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was coming to the Kingdom. We went to receive him. He stayed a few hours at the airport, during which he said to the custodian of the two holy mosques: I came with a brotherly request and hope that I will not return in failure. The custodian of the two holy mosques asked: What is it? 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said: To return to the Yemenis the facilities you gave them. The custodian of the two holy mosques replied: By God, I will not fail you. He told 'Ali—meaning the information minister—to issue a statement to the effect that the Yemenis are exempted from the issued order.

Some 24 hours later, the leaders of Aden came and asked what was earlier requested by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih; and the custodian of the two holy mosques ordered that a statement be issued granting equal facilities to the north and south Yemenis.

[Abu-Kaff] What do these facilities mean?

[Al-Sha'ir] They mean quite a great deal. They mean that the Yemeni citizen enjoys the same rights as the Saudi citizen and is on an equal par. He has the right to import, export, work, and transfer. When he leaves Saudi Arabia, he even has the right to take goods subsidized by the government, such as rice, sugar, and tea, back to Yemen. It is as though the Yemeni citizen present in Saudi Arabia shares the Saudi citizen's life. In other words, the government in the Kingdom used to share with the whole of Yemen—leadership and country—its budget, and God only knows the real figures.

[Abu-Kaff] What are the circumstances behind cancelling these facilities?

[Al-Sha'ir] Before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait started, this subject was proposed before the cabinet. The custodian of the two holy mosques said that we should study this issue carefully, because the requests from other countries are slowly becoming a point of embarrassment to us. It is either that all are equal before the law, or we look into this issue with a view to removing ourselves from the embarrassing position that we are in. He said exactly: Think with me. I am not the only one who thinks here. All of you are responsible as well.

And then, events took place and what happened happened. We were surprised by Yemen's condemnation of the presence of foreign troops. So the issue was secretly prearranged. This tune that resounded from Sanaa, Amman, and Khartoum—and some of the abnormal voices from Tunis—revealed that there was something wrong.

We believed the time had come to rectify the situation regarding the Yemeni citizen and rearrange papers once again. We did nothing other than equalize the Yemeni citizen to his brother the Egyptian or Syrian citizen, and other nationalities.

Hence the talk by 'Ali Salim al-Bid [vice chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council], who was quite rude and said: We shall not bow down. I answered back saying that we do not want him to do that either.

From the very beginning, this process intended to confuse and blur Yemeni public opinion. We did not hurt the Yemeni citizen at all. However, when we suspended facilities, their true nature was revealed.

When the Yemeni citizen found no patron to sponsor him, he ended up having to either stay in the country illegally or pack up his belongings in the car and leave, which is what he did. Here, the Yemeni president talked about the Yemeni citizen's legitimate right. What legitimate right? We gave you a facility and then we took it back; this is our right. We have not done the Yemeni people an injustice. The Yemeni citizen who lives in Saudi Arabia enjoys all the rights and privileges of the Saudi citizen. The Yemeni leadership is the one responsible, and the one who tried to indoctrinate the Yemeni citizen with things that did not happen with the Saudis. We have not attacked one single Yemeni in the Kingdom.

[Abu-Kaff] What about the Jordanians in the Kingdom after King Husayn's stand and after Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan revealed his role?

[Al-Sha'ir] Jordan and Saudi Arabia have a relationship of friendship, love, sympathy, support, and giving. It was difficult for King Fahd to see his brother Husayn take this stand which no one would have believed possible. Despite all that, the brother Jordanians continue to be welcome and respected among us. The government has not taken any measures against them. However, the Saudi citizen has started looking at Jordan's positions on the [Saudi] Kingdom from another perspective, especially after the Jordanian press attacked the Kingdom.

[Abu-Kaff] A last question: What is the story of the nonaggression treaty which King Fahd and Saddam Husayn signed before the aggression on Kuwait during the emergency Arab summit in Baghdad?

[Al-Sha'ir] We were there and the situation was as such: President Saddam Husayn told King Fahd: What do you think about signing a paper on a nonaggression treaty? King Fahd said: This is a treaty that has existed for years and does not need to be put down in writing. Saddam said: Let us sign it and keep it for the coming generations. The king agreed.

In retrospect, this has turned out to be something of a smokescreen, after so much has been revealed.

United Arab Emirates

Romanian Minister Arrives for Official Talks

JN0411081090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Nov (WAKH)—Romanian Public Works and Transport Minister Doru Pana arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening from Doha at the head of a delegation comprising three Romanian Government ministers on a three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] as part of a tour in the region.

On arrival, the minister said that the purpose of his visit to the UAE is to hold talks with high-ranking UAE officials on bilateral relations and means to strengthen them in the economic and trade fields.

Talks Begin

JN0411214390 Manama WAKH in English 1655 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov (GNA)—Talks on ways of boosting cooperation between the UAE and Romania in the fields of public works and housing were held here today. UAE Minister of Public Works and Housing Muhammad Khalifah al- Kindi represented the UAE at the meeting, while the Romanian side was attended by Minister of Public Works and Transport Doru Pana.

Welcoming the Romanian minister and the accompanying delegation, al-Kindi expressed hope the visit would further enhance cooperation between the two countries in various fields. He also said that the two sides will hold a meeting tomorrow to discuss aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the housing, construction and petroleum fields.

The members of the Romanian delegation expressed pleasure at visiting the UAE, adding that their visit was aimed at achieving joint bilateral cooperation in all fields

Received By Finance Minister

JN0611204790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Dubayy, 6 Nov (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamdan Ibn-Rashid Al Maktum, minister of finance and industry in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], met in Dubayy today with Doru Pana, Romanian minister of public works and transportation, and the delegation accompanying him, currently visiting the UAE.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed expanding trade and economic cooperation between the UAE and Romania, and the possibility of encouraging joint investments in the public and private sectors.

Baker Tour Said 'Final Act' in Diplomatic Effort

JN0611195190 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 5 Nov 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Initiatives and Procrastination"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour of regional capitals, beginning today, is virtually the final act in the sequence of "diplomatic efforts", which for three months have used every means to convince the Iraqi leadership to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations and the Arab League by leaving Kuwait voluntarily and allowing matters to return to their pre-2 August status.

Many people, especially the Arabs, have been optimistic, understandably, that these efforts would succeed. They believed that the Iraqi leadership must ultimately listen to the voice of reason and that by no means would it allow its people and the entire Arab nation to suffer the disasters that will certainly occur if a peaceful solution to the crisis fails and military action emerges as the only solution to stop and repulse the aggression.

Proceeding from this, many initiatives have been proposed with a view to avoiding a solution arrived at through armed force. But all these initiatives have collapsed against Iraq's intransigence. Now, most people who still dream of a peaceful solution, and even those who want the use of force to be delayed until after all diplomatic means have been exhausted, have the right to view any new initiative is merely a maneuver to procrastinate, especially because the eradication of the Kuwaiti identity, the organized looting of the Kuwaiti people's possessions, and the deliberate destruction of Kuwait's basic structures are in full swing.

Perhaps the question that will be raised in every meeting between Baker and the officials he is going to see on this tour is: Have the diplomatic efforts lost their purpose? All indications are that the answer will always be the same—in the affirmative. And then the curtain will rise again, introducing another scene—a totally different one.

Yemen

President Escapes Assassin Amid 'Popular Anger'

PM0711163390 London AL-ZAHIRAH in Arabic 5 Nov 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Attempt To Assassinate 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih Failed"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa, AL-ZAHIRAH—People arriving from Sanaa have said that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih lives in fear of assassination under very tight security following an attempt on his life last week by one of his guards, who was shot dead by the other guards the minute he aimed his pistol at President Salih.

AL-ZAHIRAH's sources emphasize that a state of popular anger is currently sweeping Yemen from one end to the other, and that Yemen's sons are now openly expressing resentment and condemnation of the government's official positions in support of the Iraqi invasion. This is in addition to the bitter complaints about soaring prices of basic foodstuffs and fuel, which have risen by 100 percent. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Envoy Arrives To Discuss Current Situation

JN0711175490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Brother Najib Hamdun, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary and President Saddam Husayn's special envoy to brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, arrived in Sanaa today.

In a press statement to SABA', the Iraqi envoy explained that his visit comes within the context of the strong relations between the two fraternal countries, and within the framework of consultations and exchange of views between the two leaders, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Saddam Husayn, in an effort to tackle the current situation in the region [words indistinct].

Received by Salih

JN0811142790 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Sanaa, Nov 8, INA—General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih president of the Republic of Yemen today received here President Saddam Husayn's Envoy Mr Nizar Hamdun foreign undersecretary. The Iraqi envoy conveyed during the audience a message to General Salih from President Husayn on bilateral ties and developments of the situation in the Arab Gulf region.

General Salih reiterated his country's established attitude, calling for finding peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis within the Arab context and to spare the region destruction. The audience was attended by Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani and other officials.

Sources Say Security Situation 'Explosive'

PM0611153090 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 31 Oct 90 p 1

[Khalid al-Matrafi and Hamad Duqduqi report: "Yemen About To Explode"]

[Excerpt] AL-MADINAH has learned from informed Yemeni sources that the situation in Yemen is very tense and explosive, especially after the 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih government last week distributed arms to the people supporting its biased policies on the Gulf crisis. This happened in the Yafi' and al-Zali' [place-name as published] areas.

The sources pointed out that the 'Ali Salih government has moved the al-'Amaliqah [giants] Brigade to Abyan Governorate in anticipation of an explosion of the situation there in view of the growing activities of the Democratic National Grouping headed by former Abyan Governor Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad, who is supported by Abyan Governorate's al-Thalithah tribes. The sources pointed out that the Democratic National Grouping includes Ahmad Musa'id Husayn, former South Yemeni state security minister, who is supported by the Shabwah al-Rabi'ah tribes.

It has been learned that 'Ulaywiyah, former South Yemeni deputy defense minister, is being questioned. The informed sources said that in the past two weeks the 'Ali Salih government has moved an entire military brigade to the al-Mahrah area in the Muhafazah al-Sadisah in total secrecy in a bid to control the escalating tension in that area.

Furthermore, the Islamic grouping under Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Qal tan and Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ashuri pose a challenge to the 'Ali Salih regime, which is about to lose control of power. [passage omitted]

Presidential Council Member Leaves for Japan

JN0711120990 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Presidential Council Member 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani left Sanaa for Tokyo today to represent our country in the celebrations to enthrone the Japanese emperor. The Yemeni news agency learned that brother 'Abd-al-Ghani will also hold talks with Japanese officials on bilateral relations and ways to promote them.

243 Poles Receive Exit Visas, Depart 8 Nov

NC0811100290 Paris AFP in English 0921 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] BAGHDAD, Nov 8 (AFP)—A group of 243 Polish nationals left here for Warsaw aboard an Iraqi Airways 747 Thursday after receiving exit visas from Iraqi authorities, airport sources said.

A Polish government spokeswoman on Wednesday had said 238 Poles were to be repatriated Thursday, most of them engineers and construction workers. With their departure, she added, there would be 150 Polish nationals still awaiting permission to leave.

Iraq announced Wednesday that 1,000 Soviet nationals—technicians for the most part—would be permitted to leave Baghdad starting Sunday.

Four Swedish Nationals Leave Baghdad 7 Nov

JN0711160590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Nov 90

[All Swedish names as received]

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA)—In implementation of the orders given by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn allowing a number of Swedish nationals from among the guests of the Iraqi people to travel home or stay in Iraq if they so wished, four Swedes left Baghdad at noon today.

In statements to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the Swedish guests expressed thanks for the hospitality and care accorded to them by the Iraqi Government and people during their stay. They said that President Saddam Husayn's noble gesture giving them the right to travel abroad or stay in Iraq if they so wished is an overture that embodies the universal spirit and human values that his excellency the president cherishes. They added that the gesture reflects Iraq's intentions regarding the establishment of a comprehensive and durable peace in the Arab region in particular and in the world in general.

It is to be recalled that the Swedish guests who left today are the following: Kellej Hersh, Kalus Brokmann, Hanz Threzen, and Bokrand Sterk.

Swedish Islamic Delegation Departs 7 Nov

JN0711183390 Baghdad INA in English 1540 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 7, INA—The Swedish Islamic delegation, headed by leader of the Islamic League in Stockholm Haytham Rahmah left Baghdad today at the conclusion of a 12-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Mr. Rahmah expressed appreciation to President Saddam Husayn over the good hospitality the delegation received during its visit to Iraq.

Mr. Rahmah described his visit as a fruitful and praised Iraq's support to the Islamic community in Sweden.

The delegation confirmed solidarity of all Moslems in Sweden with the Iraqi people in thwarting the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy against the Arab nation.

Yesterday, President Saddam Husayn allowed four Swedish nationals to leave Iraq in response to an appeal by the visiting delegation.

Brandt Says Saddam Agrees To Hostage Release

LD0711174190 Hamburg DPA in German 1624 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad (DPA)—Numerous Germans and other nationals who have been held in Iraq for the past three months will be able to get ready to return home as a consequence of the private mission by former Chancellor Willy Brandt to Baghdad. This is the result of a two-and-a-half hour talk Brandt had with Iraqi head of state Saddam Husayn in Baghdad today. According to Brandt, Saddam Husayn agreed to a "clear step" on the release of foreigners, with the exact number and the nationalities still being clarified. [passage omitted]

The meeting between the Social Democratic Party honorary chairman and the Iraqi head of state was the most important result of the mission of the 76-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner, which started on Monday. Brandt later told journalists that the hostage problem took up only around 10 percent of the talks, because Saddam Husayn already had his ideas on this question on paper on the table.

The main topic was the search for a non-violent solution to the Gulf crisis. The adoption of the CSCE model to the Middle East—that is the creation of a zone of security and cooperation in the region—attracted a "high degree" of interest. However, Brandt sees hardly any chance of a diplomatic solution at present, since he is not aware of further initiatives. He also asked for his role as a politician who preserves peace not to be overestimated in this crisis.

Brandt described his meeting with Saddam Husayn as correct and polite. In answer to a question whether he regards him as a flexible politician, Brandt said such character assessment would be presumptuous after a two-and-a-half hour talk. However, he would not contradict those who describe the head of state as "difficult." The Iraqi head of state is certainly not unsophisticated, and experience has shown "he is capable of considerable turnarounds," he said. [passage omitted]

Delegation 'Shocked' at Change

LD0711211290 Hamburg DPA in German 2026 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad (DPA)—The delegation of the honorary chairman of the SPD [Social Democratic Party], Willy Brandt, this evening refused to comment in Baghdad on the Iraqi announcement that, contrary to greater expectations, apparently only 100 Germans and 20 other foreigners will be allowed to leave the country as a result of the Brandt mission.

The decision has shocked those concerned. After talks with state President Saddam Husayn today Brandt had spoken of a "significant step" on the departure of foreigners. The general expectation so far was that at least the special Lufthansa plane, which can hold 260 people, would return to Germany full.

The SPD Euro MP [member of parliament] Dieter Schinzel, who is traveling in Brandt's delegation, and a worker from Brandt's office were trying this evening to obtain clarification about Saddam's decision publicized by the official news agency IRAQI NEWS AGENCY. Earlier, Schinzel had stated to DPA: "We assume that this is a first step which will be followed by others."

Brandt had not been told officially of the decision, but had learned about it on the radio. Earlier he had spread cautious optimism when he stated to German journalists that Saddam had hinted at the prospect of a "significant step" on the issue of foreigners. "It has been hinted to me that I will have nothing to complain about," he said.

Observers say that the announcement in the media of the departure of 120 foreigners is below Brandt's expectations. German sources in Baghdad said this evening that Brandt is postponing his departure which was planned for tomorrow. Between 3,000 and 5,000 Western foreigners are being held in Iraq, including 400 Germans. During his talks in Baghdad the honorary chairman of the SPD intended to press for the free departure of all foreigners. He had stated after his talks with Saddam Husayn that he hoped he would not have to ask for a second round of talks because of the issue of foreigners.

Brandt Wants Second Meeting

LD0811094890 Hamburg DPA in German 0851 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad (DPA)—In his efforts to obtain permission for further Germans and foreigners to leave, honorary SPD [Social Democratic Party] Chairman Willy Brandt met in Baghdad today with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. As was learned in Baghdad, attempts are being made for a second meeting between Brandt and head of state, Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Willy Brandt plans to meet the Germans being held in Baghdad at the German Embassy later today to explain the situation to them. The spokesman for the German hostages, Heinz-Georg Lassen, told DPA: "Hopes had been higher. Most had expected a 'French solution.'" Iraq allowed all French citizens to leave.

German hostages said in interviews that Brandt's visit is their last hope. "For those who remain behind, there is hardly a chance," a 51-year-old engineer said. It is being said by those accompanying Brandt that Saddam's announcement was a "first step," which could be followed by others. Within the framework of efforts to increase the numbers of those released, the SPD Euro MP, Dieter Schnitzel, who traveled with Brandt, has been holding talks in the Iraqi Foreign Ministry.

British Nationals Send Greetings Home

LD0711224990 Baghdad International Service in English 2100 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Interviews with British nationals in Iraq by unidentified announcer; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Hello, my name is Neil Dyer, and I'm British.

[Announcer] You'd like to send a message to your family?

[Dyer] I'd like to say hello to Denise, say that I am well. I'd like to say hello to my mum and dad, to Stuart, Val, Leanne. Also to David and Mary, Martin, Barry, Lorraine, and all my other friends in Somerset and in London.

[Mayers] My name's David Mayers. I am British.

[Announcer] Do you like to send a message to your family?

[Mayers] Yes, I'd like to send a message to Margaret, Emily, and Charlotte, and Margaret's family, and everyone else who knows me at home. I'm fine, everybody's fine here, and we hope to see you soon.

[Announcer] Are you planning something for Christmas and the New Year?

[Mayers] Well, as far as plans for Christmas and the New Year are concerned, we haven't yet formulated anything specific, but I'm sure we'll work something out [words indistinct].

[Announcer] Are you having a good time here?

[Mayers] Ah, we're having a reasonable time here, yes. As other people have mentioned, there are facilities here such as tennis and pool, and various get-togethers in the evening, and also (?we do) outdoor running around the track, and things to do, so we're keeping fairly fit and, well, yes.

[Announcer] You want to say something else to your (?loved ones)?

[Mayers] Yes, I would say to them don't worry too much. As you can see, we're in good condition and we're being looked after quite well.

[Announcer] Thank you, very much.

[Mayers] My pleasure.

Nakasone Thanks Saddam, Departs 7 Nov

JN0711151290 Baghdad INA in English 1435 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 7, INA—Japanese former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and the accompanying delegation this afternoon left Baghdad concluding a several-day visit to Iraq

In a statement to INA at the airport, Mr. Nakasone said "during the visit, I met President Saddam Husayn twice and discussed with his excellency developments of the situation in the region and means necessary for finding peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis."

Mr. Nakasone added that President Husayn had expressed real desire for resolving the crisis peacefully, and that the Japanese people reject war. He added that he would do the utmost to prevent eruption of war.

The Japanese figure expressed high gratitude and appreciation to President Saddam Husayn over the generous initiative by allowing a large number of the Japanese guests to leave Iraq.

He was seen off at the airport by Mr. Muhammmad Sa'id al-Sharif, state minister for foreign affairs and a number of Iraqi officials.

President Saddam Husayn had yesterday ordered to allow 77 of Japanese guests hosted by the Iraqi people to leave, in response to a request presented by Mr. Nakasone.

The Japanese guests left Baghdad today on board Mr. Nakasone's aircraft.

Official Says Iraqi, Japanese Peace Views Same

JN0711212490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA)—Mr. Taku Yamuri Makino [name as received], member of parliament and of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] in Japan, has said that Japan and Iraq's points of view are identical in regard to a peaceful solution to the Arabian Gulf crisis and keeping the region out of war.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, he added that Iraq and Japan agreed to deepen bilateral relations in various fields, as well as to continue efforts to find a possibility for establishing peace in the region. He said Japan wanted to strengthen relations between the Iraqi National Assembly and the Japanese parliament.

He said that his talks with Iraqi officials were frank and that he sensed a strong desire to develop cooperation with Japan. He stated that the exchange of visits between officials in the two countries will be repeated in the interest of peace and the development of relations of cooperation.

Saddam, 'Arafat Discuss Regional Issues

JN0711143190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1357 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn today received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

They discussed current regional developments, the situation in the occupied Arab territories, and the crimes the Zionist enemy has been perpetrating against the Palestinian people, especially the recent massacres committed in the Gaza Strip.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee; and 'Azzam al-Ahmad, Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad.

PLO's Hurani Says State Will Defeat U.S.

JN0711194390 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 7, INA—Mr. 'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee confirmed that the world had realized dangers of the American anti-Iraq provocative policy on world peace and security.

In a televised interview here last night, Mr. Hurani said that the U.S. Administration began to lose its patience due to the growing peace calls around the world pointing out that Bush's statements had proved this fact.

Mr. Hurani clarified that the coalition mobilized by Bush against Iraq began to collapse because the world aspires for peace and stability and that the aggressive intentions of the United States had been unmasked.

The Palestinian official went on saying that the delegations, currently visiting Iraq, did not come for the sake of the foreign nationals who were prevented from leaving Iraq but because they believed in peace and work to maintain stability and security in the region.

Mr. Hurani concluded that those who had boycotted Iraq realized today that no one but Iraq could establish peace in the region stressing that steadfastness of the Iraqis would achieve victory and defeat the United States and its allies.

UNGA Discussion of Buildup in Gulf Requested

JN0811101490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] United Nations, 8 Nov (INA)—Iraq has requested that the UN General Assembly add an item entitled "the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf" to the agenda of its current 45th session.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in New York says this came in a letter from Iraq's permanent UN representative to the UN secretary general. An explanatory memorandum reviewing the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula was enclosed with the letter.

The memorandum, he adds, explains that the offensive objectives of the U.S. forces pose direct danger and clear threats to Arab and world peace and security.

According to the memorandum, the statements made by U.S. President Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker reveal premeditated hostile U.S. intentions against Iraq and show lack of U.S. desire to deal with any possibility for reaching a just and permanent solution to the Gulf crisis and other complicated problems from which the region is suffering, especially the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories in Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon.

Halting the aggressive U.S. scheme, the memorandum states, continues to be a human duty in line with all principles and goals of the UN Charter and international law. Putting this subject forward as an item in the 45th session of the General Assembly, therefore, is an important and exceptional issue that requires support and backing from all peace-loving countries.

Officials, Press Criticize U.S.-Saudi Agreement

'Aziz on Troop Command

JN0711174390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has condemned the declaration issued at the conclusion of the visit to Saudi Arabia by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on an agreement on the command of the invading and aggressive U.S. troops on Saudi territory.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the foreign minister said: This agreement confirms the hostile and colonial objectives of the U.S.-Western military presence in the Peninsula and the Gulf. In addition, this agreement exposes the allegations of the United States and Saudi Arabia regarding the pretexts for this presence which they expressed at the beginning. From the outset, these troops came to launch an aggression on Iraq. This reflects a plan drawn up years ago with a view to imposing total domination over oil deposits and controlling oil to serve U.S. and British colonial objectives. As for the Saudi rulers, they are partners in this plan.

The foreign minister stated that the Saudi rulers will be held fully responsible for any act of aggression that the United States and its allies might launch against Iraq, whether or not they were to take part in the deliberations leading to a decision to launch an aggression. He declared that Saudi land will be an arena for combat should the aggression be initiated.

Furthermore, the foreign minister warned that U.S. aggression against Iraq, regardless of the direction from which it comes, will make the U.S. troops deployed in the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf region the target of a response.

On this clear collusion between the Saudi rulers and the United States, the foreign minister said: By this shameful agreement, the Saudi rulers violate the essence of inter-Arab ties as well as the Arab League Charter. By so doing, they also contravene the treaties and agreements that they signed with Iraq. Thus, these rulers are putting themselves in a situation where they will be cruelly taken to task by their people and the whole Arab nation.

Information Minister Comments

JN0811092690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Nov (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has said that Iraq will retaliate against any U.S. aggression against Iraq targeting all the allies of the U.S. forces in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

Commenting on the agreement on the command of the U.S. troops of invasion and aggression in Najd and Hejaz, which was announced in the wake of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Saudi Arabia, Jasim told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY: The agreement underlines the conspiracy to which we have drawn attention, underscores the aggressive colonialist objectives of the U.S. and Western military presence, and exposes the allegations and false excuses that the American and Saudi sides made when these forces arrived; namely, that Iraq was threatening Saudi Arabia, although we repeatedly stressed at that time that such threats did not exist and were not justified.

The minister added: The plotters have always hidden themselves behind excuses. But facts soon appear, and God exposes the plotters. The U.S. plan that has been drawn for many years to control oil and achieve U.S. interests is now exposed. The rulers of Najd and Hejaz, especially the betrayer of the two holy mosques, are involved in this dirty plan.

Mr. Jasim stressed: We strongly stress that the rulers of Najd and Hejaz will be held fully responsible for any act of aggression by the United States and its allies against Iraq, whether they take part in the aggression decision or not, because they were behind the arrival of these forces and because they used and are still using their lands, facilities, and money in their service.

The minister of culture and information stressed that we will make all Saudi territories on which the foreign troops are present a battlefield, and no traitor will escape, regardless of whether or not he hides behind this or that cover. He said: We stress and say that we will retaliate for any U.S. aggression against Iraq, and we will target all allies of the U.S. troops on the land of Najd and Hejaz.

The minister of culture and information said that history does not show any mercy toward any treachery, and that the rulers of Saudi Arabia should learn from the example of Abu-Rughal [the Arab guide who led Abraha the Abyssinian to Mecca in about 570 A.D.]. They should fear God and spare the region a catastrophe—the extent, damage, and present and future consequences of which only God knows.

He said: Just like his ancestors, the Arab is patient and remembers the good deeds and learns lessons from them; and the evil deeds, which he brings up when he wants to seek right and give supremacy to right against evil.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, concluded his statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY by saying: In all cases, the heroes of Iraq and the brave men in our Armed Forces, the soldiers of Saddam's al-Qadisiyah, are known for their ability and endurance in battle. Today's conspirators in the land of Najd and Hejaz always referred to their gallantry and heroism and sought their protection.

Press Attacks Agreement

JN0811105390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Nov (INA)—Iraqi newspapers today strongly attacked the treasonous, hostile agreement signed by the Fahd regime and the Bush administration on the management of the expected aggression against Iraq.

In their editorials today, the papers were in agreement that Fahd's humiliating and shameful concessions to Washington came as no surprise, as it is a natural result of the occupation of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] by the U.S. Forces.

AL-QADISIYAH, which reflects the Defense Ministry views, says the promotion of this treasonous understanding through news media is part of preparations for the war decision, which is left solely for the United States to make and implement, without any party being able to object.

The paper adds: If the betrayer of the two holy mosques has handed the Islamic sanctities and the Arab lands in Najd and Hejaz to the occupation and signed with the Americans the decision to perpetrate aggression against Iraq, he must realize the implications of this betrayal.

It stresses that the dens of evil and agentry in the lands of Najd and Hejaz are within our reach. We will not forgive or disregard any party allying itself with the aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation; we will immediately settle scores with it.

The paper warns that if the battle takes place, it will, in the end, be lightning and destruction on them all. We will not care, then, if the villains die, and we will not care about oil, for the sake of which the Americans are trying to enslave us.

Under the headline "The Fall of the Last Excuse," AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says its editorial today: The Fahd-Baker agreement has very clearly revealed the U.S. intentions and aggressive objectives against Iraq, and has abolished all those ridiculous allegations and tricks that have never misled us or all good Arabs and honorable believers.

The paper adds: We were not surprised by the agreement nor by the distribution of roles between the two parties, especially since we know for sure that the permanent U.S. occupation of Najd and Hejaz has totally taken possession of the Najd and Hejaz rulers' political wills, has stripped from them free decisionmaking, and has turned them into weak, cheap, subservient, and powerless tools, vis-a-vis their American masters. The paper draws the attention of Fahd and the other rulers in Najd and Hejaz to the fact that the agreement will not exempt them from the responsibility for any act of aggression against Iraq by the U.S. Forces. The paper says that they are the main accomplices in the conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation.

AL-THAWRAH discusses the punishment that awaits those traitors, and cites President Saddam Husayn: "Those who try to plot against us, I mean those who plot against the nation, should have their heads cut off rather than we bowing to them and bargaining over the sanctities of the nation."

Discussing the treasonous agreement between Fahd and Washington, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: It is now clear, as the moves of the villains and the available information bear out, that any potential aggression will be launched from the lands of Najd and Hejaz.

The paper warns the symbols of the aggressive alliance against Iraq and says: Any shot against Iraq will drive it to destroy the place from where it is fired.

The paper stresses that the retaliation will not be proportional to the strike against Iraq. We will determine the size, place, intensity, and scale of the retaliation. The fire of the Iraqi retaliation will not consume parts of Najd and Hejaz and leave others, or burn the sides and leave others.

AL-'IRAQ says that we are fully ready to sacrifice for a free and dignified life, and we will not accept the humiliation, exploitation, and violation of our lands and just rights.

The paper concentrates on the aggressiveness of the U.S. conduct against Iraq and says that Bush got the Americans involved in a dangerous game and took them to a dark tunnel with unpredictable results.

The paper draws attention to the fact that what promotes peace in the region is preventing foreign interference in Arab affairs, and confining Arab problems to their pan-Arab bounds.

Paper Welcomes Japan's Position on Gulf Troops

JN0811123790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has welcomed the decision of the Japanese Government and the ruling party to table the draft law on the dispatch of Japanese military forces outside the country's national border and described it as a correct and unsurprising decision.

In a commentary today, the paper says the aim of that draft resolution, which was prepared under U.S. pressure, was to facilitate sending Japanese troops to the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula.

The paper analyzes Washingon's motives for pressurizing Japan into making such a law and says that the United States has long tried to weaken the economically powerful Japan and dwarf its political will. Japan, adds the paper, was one of the targets of the U.S. scheme of invading the region, seizing the oil of the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula, controlling water passages in the region, and placing the governments of the region under the full control of the U.S. policy.

AL-THAWRAH focuses on the characteristics of the U.S. policy toward Japan and says this policy has been governed by the complex of victory since the crime of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and has always been lacking in diplomatic tact. In all its dealings with Japan, it did everything that would hurt the national pride of the Japanese people and tried by all means to weaken the Japanese phenomenon and besiege its role.

The paper urges Japan to underscore its full departure from the cycle of U.S. influence and says: The current world situation and the absence of bilateral polarization that long pushed Japan toward the U.S. side for geopolitical reasons provide Japan with the optimal opportunity to emerge as a powerful country with an independent political decisionmaking and a role that suits its history, economic vitality, and scientific progress.

Paper Hints at Reason Syria Sending More Troops

JN0711202090 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 5 Nov 90 p 2

[From the "News Variety" feature]

[Text] Muhammad Salman, information minister of the Syrian regime, yesterday, Sunday, said that his regime would dispatch more forces to the Gulf, including an armored division.

He said that the additional forces will reinforce some thousands of Syrian troops stationed in Saudi Arabia. He stated that his regime had pledged to send about 20,000 soldiers to the Gulf.

It should be noted that the Syrian regime a few days ago disseminated press rumors about its "rebellion" against the U.S. (Desert Shield) operation, following differences between Syria and the rest of the partners on its share of the oil funds allocated to finance the operation. However, it has now dissipated all these rumors following quick contacts by the government of the betrayer of the two mosques and the remnants of the Croesus of Kuwait through fat "envelopes".

Bush's 'Lies' Reflect His 'Manifold Plight'

JN0411104690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has asserted that Iraq's clinging to justice and its refusal to submit to the arrogance and threat of force have scorched Bush's hands with the fire of the war barrel he is carrying and advocating and around which he is massing tools and allies.

In its editorial today under the headline, "They Will Lose," the paper says: Because the Iraqi just logic is unambiguous, solid, and rests on capability and faith and Arab, Islamic, and human support, the position of evil and aggression has become weak, exposed, and more isolated.

The paper adds: Bush is now facing honest, courageous stands, whether within the international circles which reject war and aggression and call for dialogue and peace, or within the U.S. society where voices are raised saying that they do not want Americans to be the fuel for the fire of imperialist ambitions—the ambitions of controlling oil and international economy, especially since these ambitions are standing in the face of a strong, solid Iraq which is capable of safeguarding its sovereignty, dignity, and security.

The paper goes on to say: Bush and his administration are going in the opposite direction of the logic of courageous peoples instead of retreating at the appropriate time. Therefore, we see that they are pursuing the approach which rests on buildup, aggression, and threats, at a time when they are trying to color their stands by a media language which looks different from the original rabid language and the cynical, chaotic vocabulary which came out of minds that do not believe in people's rights and refuse to recognize the facts which have been the result of people's sacrifices and struggle.

The paper scoffs at Bush's claims that his motives are not "the oil issue or international economy" but international law and the Security Council resolutions. It says that this statement of Bush is similar to the situation of a liar who made up a story and then believed it to be true. For, Bush himself is the one who dictated on the Security Council its known resolutions by pressures, and now he holds himself captive to these resolutions which he deems represent the international will.

AL-THAWRAH adds: We, the American people, and the entire world are aware of the whole truth, and no one can respect Bush or believe his first lie which is replete with double standards and hypocrisy, nor his second lie which is based on the first one.

The paper goes on to say: Because Bush's constant approach depends on lies, he claims that oil and interests are not his motives, in spite of the fact that his statements and those of the symbols of his administration which say the contrary are rife and well known.

The paper points out that Bush is crying over the Croesus and his gang, is keen on their funds which flowed into U.S. banks, and is calling for reimbursing corrupt thieves. In this theatrical weeping which accompanies the election campaign, Bush deliberately ignores 400,000 Yemeni citizens which were expelled by the authorities of his friend Fahd after being dispossessed of their property; ignores millions of Palestinian citizens who were expelled by the Zionist entity which Bush is fostering; and ignores the property of these millions and the resources of their homeland which have been fully usurped.

The paper adds: Once again, false media reports have been exposed before the stark truth, the same way Bush's allegations to the effect that he has no problems with the Iraqi people have been exposed. Otherwise, why has he adopted the measures of blockade and piracy which attempt to kill the Iraqi people through starving them and denying them food, medicine, and babies' milk?

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: Bush explains his actions against the Iraqi people, the Palestinian people, the Yemenis, and all the sons of the nation only through lies which cannot withstand the facts because U.S. actions on the ground totally contradict with Bush's media statements in a manner which is sometimes scandalizing.

The paper says: We, and all the world look at facts, not allegations; and facts indicate that the manifold files which Bush uses for his political statements do not reflect immense capabilities inasmuch as they reflect a manifold plight inside the United States and with international parties which believe in dialogue and peace, in addition to his plight in facing Iraq's faith and capabilities.

The paper goes on to say: Bush cannot tell the truth because whether he tells the truth or tells lies, he will lose. And, if he commits an aggression, he will lose everything and disaster will befall him. Bush has to choose. He should be brave in reneging on aggression, because his loss in this case would be less.

The paper concludes: Bush says this is not an easy time at all. In saying this, Bush is telling the truth because his time is very hard indeed. However, it is a time of his own making. Life is such a difficult job, Bush.

Women Give Protest Memo to U.S. Official

JN0711171990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1637 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA)—The glorious Iraqi women have condemned the invasion of the Islamic holy lands by the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic troops.

In a protest memorandum which they handed to the U.S. charge d'affaires in Baghdad, they condemned the aggressive and brutal policy being pursued by the United States and its allies and agents against Iraq. They also denounced the embargo which denies the Iraqi people access to milk, food, and medicine.

The memorandum said that the blockade enforced against the Iraqi people is a dangerous precedent in history. The memorandum added that the blockade clearly shows the premeditated hostile intentions harbored against these peaceful people who want to live on their land in freedom and security.

Paper Says 'Designs' Clear Before 2 Aug

JN0611132090 Baghdad INA in English 1132 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 6, INA—AL-'IRAQ newspaper of Baghdad has said that our battle against the invading colonialist forces is historical and decisive one.

In its article for today, the paper added that Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn would certainly defeat the enemies and break up their conspiracy.

The paper further said that realities and events that prevailed the Arab arena throughout two decades proved soundness of Iraq's approach led by President Saddam Husayn and principles and ideas put forward in various domains and levels.

The paper recalled President Saddam Husayn's repeated calls on the importance that the Arabs should have to restore their historical role, and his excellency's hints to conspiracies hatched against our people and nation, and his assertion that the beginning of these conspiracies was not the 2nd of August.

The daily added that designs of the enemies had become clear since those aborted designs were after destroying Iraq.

Culture Minister Condemns Thatcher Remarks

JN0711195390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1913 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has said that the repeated statements made by the hag, Thatcher, day in and day out, filled with rancor and hatred toward the Iraqi people, and her continued calls for beating the drums of war unequivocally show beyond any shadow of a doubt that this woman, who has her own complexes, has lost her mental balance. They also show that she is no longer capable of pursuing a responsible political course of action reflecting a consideration of consequences, a course of action demonstrating a responsible choice of words and displaying a humanitarian sense compatible with the position that she occupies.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY commenting on Thatcher's remarks at the British Parliament today warning Iraq that the sanctions had not produced the desired results and that she and her allies would inflict defeat on Iraq regardless of the consequences, the minister added: This continuous hysteria makes us believe that its motives are not only suspect, but that it also shows a lack of the mental, psychological, and physical balance that a responsible official occupying such an important position should demonstrate. Otherwise, how are we to explain the policy of this woman who urges war morning and evening? The only explanation that we have found is that the devil has found a comfortable dwelling within her mind and conscience.

Concluding his statement, the culture and information minister said: At any rate, we view Thatcher's statements with disdain and indifference. Besides, we pity her and declare that her declining popularity in Britain will be boosted by neither war nor by the beating of the drums of war.

Islamic Opposition 'Still Working' Inside State

PM0711151390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Nov 90 p 17

[Interview with Hujjat al-Islam 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hakim, "member of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution and a key Iraqi opposition leader," by Zaki Shihab in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shihab] How do you view developments in the Gulf region which have resulted from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait?

[Al-Hakim] Iraq's invasion of Kuwait is a criminal act which has been condemned by all Iraqis, first and foremost the various parties of the Iraqi opposition, and I mention here in particular the Islamic opposition in all its inclinations headed by Mr. Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq. That criminal act conflicts with the Islamic Shari'ah and the morals and principles in which we believe.

We have experienced the tragedy of the Kuwaiti people since the first day of the Iraqi invasion, just as they have experienced the tragedy which we have experienced since dictatorial rule arrived in Iraq, and especially since Saddam Husayn assumed power.

We have condemned and continue to condemn that action. We support the Kuwaiti people and will fight alongside them in order to get rid of the Saddam regime, which is hanging around the necks of the Iraqi people and the Muslim Kuwaiti people. The Iraqi regime is a source of concern, pain, and alarm in the region. It has caused problems and tragedies. In our view, the region cannot live in peace, stability, and security so long as Saddam and his regime are in power in Iraq. And serious work is needed in order to topple both. [passage omitted]

[Shihab] To what extent has the rapprochement between Iraq and Iran limited the Iraqi Islamic movement's activities on Iranian territory?

[Al-Hakim] The opposition exists. It existed before the revolution in Iran. When the revolution achieved victory and then was militarily attacked by Iraq the Islamic movement found a bigger opportunity for work, thus it expanded its activities and continued over the war period. It did not stop when the war ended but has continued its work since. The opposition is always looking for scopes for work and is still working inside Iraq, since it believes in armed struggle and in the need to topple that regime. It also believes that it is impossible to coexist with that regime, which is a source of concern in the region. Many of the Iraqi people's sons are still inside Iran at the level of military or political formations or centers.

[Shihab] Have the Islamic movement's leaders in Iran been removed or have their activities been suspended as a result of that rapprochement between the two countries?

[Al-Hakim] These reports are untrue. The proof of this is that the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution is still in Iran and continues to carry out its activities and issue statements. And its chairman, Mr. Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, continues to do his daily work as an opposition leader normally. He holds open meetings and broadcasts and televised meetings and seminars. And the military forces, first and foremost the Badr Corps belonging to the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, are still there and continue to do their work.

It is worth mentioning that six hours after Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz's arrival in Tehran the Corps conducted military maneuvers in one of its camps, using live ammunition.

[Shihab] And what was your message behind that?

[Al-Hakim] It does not need explanation. All people know what that meant.

Islamic Call Party Aide on Anti-Saddam Moves

PM0211115990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Nov 90 p 7

[Interview with "Abu-Bilal, an official of the Islamic Call Party in Iraq," by Dalal al-Saqr in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] Iraqi opposition movements believe that these days are crucial for them and that the time is more suitable than ever for moves on the political and military levels, as they may not have another opportunity to convey their voice to world public opinion.

At the headquarters of the Islamic Call Party of the Iraqi opposition in Damascus AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT interviewed Abu-Bilal, an official of the party. He spoke to us about the party's objectives, saying that it aims to establish a just society in Iraq based on the application of the precepts of the Islamic Shari'a. That can only take place when the individual's cultural and educational level reach a degree of maturity that would prompt him to accept Islam. Islam cannot be imposed on people; they choose it of their own free will. This is with regard to the Islamic Call's program and aims in Iraq and elsewhere.

As for the party's political activities, they are concentrated outside Iraq and can materialize into a serious attempt to pool Iraqi opposition energies in general, that is, with its various tendencies, in order to secure a political confrontation with the regime in Iraq. And our presence in Damascus now is actually aimed at realizing a dialogue that we hope would positively call for a just Islamic conference comprising Iraqi opposition parties, including all movements and figures, to tighten the political noose around the Iraqi regime in Baghdad and to convey to regional and world public opinion the voice of that opposition, which the Iraqi regime has tried in the past to suppress. [passage omitted]

[Al-Saqr] Does that include a military move?

[Abu-Bilal] Over a period of 10 years Islamic movement members in general, in addition to the party and our Iraqi masses, have been in agreement against the regime. And our elements inside the Iraqi Army have inflicted many painful blows. Our movement in particular has carried out more than seven attacks, including an attempt to assassinate the head of the regime, Saddam, and other attempts at a military coup.

But these attempts failed. They either met with violent resistance or were foiled by intelligence before implementation, which means that many world states' intelligence services helped in one way or another to convey information to the Iraqi regime to thwart the Islamic movement's attempts to reach its targets. We still believe that jihad is the only means to remove that regime. At these moments we are waiting for the Iraqi people with its armed cells inside to settle the crisis within Iraq and the Gulf crisis in order to spare the region as a whole a war which could break out as a result of Saddam's recklessness and irresponsible actions.

[Al-Saqr] What have you achieved in your talks with regard to convening the conference?

[Abu-Bilal] The talks are still under way, and most of the parties taking part in the discussions and dialogue are dealing with the plan positively, but we have not yet decided on implementation and its mechanism. [passage omitted]

Netherlands To Send Medicine; FRG Delivers

JN0711153090 Baghdad INA in English 1255 GMT 7 Nov 90

[All Netherlands and German names as received]

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 7, INA—Director of the Netherlands Red Cross, Dr. Peter Tjittes on Tuesday told the Iraqi English language daily "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" that he and the team he is heading discussed with the Iraqi Red Crescent the shipment of medicines from the Netherlands to the people of Iraq.

Dr. Tjittes added that the shipment of medicines was an initiative by the International League of the Red Cross.

"We shall send the medicines from the Netherlands to Baghdad via Amman. The shipment which is worth some 50,000 dollars includes medicines for chronically sick people like those who are suffering from cancer, diabetes and the like," he said. "The medicine will go to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society which in turn would distribute them to those needing them."

As for the Dutch guests in Iraq, Mr. Tjittes said that they are very well treated, well accommodated and enjoying their time." "But they are waiting to go home and join their families and children," he said.

"However, the Iraqi Red Crescent asked me to provide them with a list of the people who are ill so as to discuss this question with the Iraqi Government to facilitate their possible departure for their country."

Dr. Tjittes explained that the Dutch Red Cross is working with all Red Cross and Red Crescent societies all over the world, including the Iraqi Red Crescent for better health conditions for sick people.

"Only two weeks ago we were invited by the Iraqi Red Crescent to come to Baghdad and visit all Dutch nationals in Baghdad. The Iraqi Red Crescent also invited us to hold discussion and see for ourselves their health state and bring them medicines if they needed them. We also discussed the questions of sending mail and packages with the Iraqi Red Crescent, whose answer was positive," said Dr. Tjittes.

He added that the Dutch Red Cross cooperates and works with the Iraqi Red Crescent in Geneva, stressing that they would work for further shipments of medicines if there is a need for such an action. He said that their mission in Iraq is purely humanitarian and aims at promoting peace by alleviating the suffering of the sick people whenever possible.

The Dutch Red Cross delegation comprises Dr. Tjittes, Dr. Anton Teunisse and orientalist Dr. Johannes Jansen from Leiden University. In the meantime, a German Red Cross team comprising Dr. Harald Mayer and Dr. Hoffmann brought to the Iraqi Red Crescent a medicine consignment worth two million German marks.

Dr. Mayer said that the medicine consignment includes a wide range of antibiotics and drugs which can be used before and after operations.

"We brought with us what was needed by the Iraqi Red Crescent. All the medicines are newly produced and can be used in hospitals and clinics. We would be happy to further cooperate and consolidate our humanitarian mission everywhere in the world," said Dr. Mayer.

Meanwhile, Dr. Hoffmann said that there could be future medical consignments, but this depend on the needs of the Iraqi Red Crescent and the German donors.

"This consignment is a gift from the German people to the people of Iraq, it has no economic or trade aspect whatsoever, and we are here on a humanitarian mission," said Dr. Hoffman.

Al-Basrah, Kuwait Linked by New Railway Line

JN0711213790 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2120 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Iraqi Transport Minister Mr. Hamid Hamzah has said that the city of Kuwait is now linked with the Iraqi railway network. He added that this was accomplished thanks to a new 150-km line between al-Basrah and Kuwait.

New Armed Forces Commander Reportedly Appointed

JN0811102390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1002 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] In Baghdad, AL-QADISIYAH newspaper, the mouthpiece of the [Iraqi] Ministry of Defense, has stated that the Iraqi president has appointed Lieutenant General Husayn Rashid as new chief of the general staff of the Iraqi Armed Forces. Rashid had been deputy chief of staff of the Presidential Guard's Special Forces.

Saddam Congratulates Panama on National Day

JN0311103290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has congratulated Guillermo Endara, president of the Republic of Panama, on his country's national day. In the congratulatory cable, the president wished President Endara good health and happiness and the people of the Republic of Panama progress and prosperity.

Afghanistan's Hikmatyar Urges Western Withdrawal

JN0511150390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1428 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—Eng. Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of Hezb-e Eslami in Afghanistan, has stressed that the protection of the two holy mosques is a duty for all Muslims, and said the foreign troops' desecration of the sanctities constitutes an act of contempt and a violation of the region's security.

In a statement he issued on the situation in the Gulf—a copy of which was received by the Iraqi Peace, Friendship, and Solidarity Organization—Hikmatyar called for the withdrawal of foreign troops from the lands of Arab and Muslim sanctities in the Gulf and to settle the crisis there through dialogue.

He expressed the Afghan mujahidin's preparedness to contribute to the defense of the sacred places, and stressed the need to search for means to unite the Islamic nation to confront the challenges facing it.

Government Seizes, Operates Two Flour Mills

JN0511143790 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 3 Nov 90 p 4

[Excerpt] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decided to seize the al-Rawdah Flour Mill in the Governorate of Karbala' owned by Dawud Yusuf Qarnaji and his partner, and the Karbala' Technical Flour Mill, owned by Mazar Sa'id Qandi, for violating production instructions and regulations. In accordance with this decision, the mills will be administered by the General Establishment for Cereals Manufacturing.

A Trade Ministry official source told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that in compliance with the respected RCC resolution, the Ministry took the responsibility of directly administering the two flour mills and operating them with all the former staff members in a manner that ensures a regular work flow in order to provide for the citizens' needs. [passage omitted]

Reaction Continues to Murder of Rabbi Kahana

AFP Reports

NC0711184890 Paris AFP in English 1755 GMT 7 Nov 90

[By Jean Luc Porte]

[Text] Jerusalem, Nov 7 (AFP)—Supporters of a slain Jewish militant leader attacked a bus carrying Palestinian workers as Rabbi Me'ir Kahana was laid to rest Wednesday during an emotional funeral ceremony attended by thousands of people vowing "Death to Arabs." Israeli sources could not immediately supply details on the attack that occured at the entrance to Jerusalem, nor was it known if there were casualties.

But as news of the anti-Arab violence emerged, another group of Palestinian workers sought refuge near a food-manufacturing factory out of fear they would be attacked by militants of the Rabbi Kahana KAKH group. Supporters of the slain KAKH leader also attacked the building housing Israel Television with stones and violently beat up an Israeli policeman in the vicinity, a television reporter said by telephone.

Rabbi Kahana—who was in Israel a symbol of hatred for Arabs and religious intransigence—was shot dead Monday in New York by a man thought to be an Egyptian-born Muslim, according to the latest reports from the United States.

Several thousands of his supporters, most ultra-Orthodox Jews, attended his funeral shouting "Death to Arabs". Their anger was also aimed at Cabinet ministers, other government officials, political leaders and even representatives of the media, who had over the years criticised KAKH's extremist policies.

Ge'ula Kohen and Yuval Ne'eman, cabinet ministers who represent far-right political parties, were booed and forced to leave the funeral march while hundreds of policemen cordonned off the crowd. Hours after news of Rabbi Kahana's assassination, the Israeli Government ordered police reinforcements in Jerusalem, stepped up security in the occupied territories and warned several Palestinian figures to keep a low profile.

Police fear that KAKH militants would form a clandestine group with the express aim of killing Arabs and even Jewish critics of the late rabbi. KAKH militants issued ominous calls for vengeance immediately they knew of his killing and at least one of them vowed that "Arab blood will flow like water."

Just an hour after Rabbi Kahana's murder an elderly Palestinian man and a woman were shot and killed in a West Bank village as they went to gather olives. Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni was visited by three police officers at his Wadi Jawz residence in east Jerusalem and told to take "precautionary steps to ensure" his safety, Palestinian sources said.

The officers also gave Mr. al-Husayni, who heads the Center for Arab Studies, a telephone number linked to a special police unit and urged him to use it should his life be endangered, the sources added. Police helicopters meanwhile hovered over Jerusalem to monitor the funeral procession as it wound its way across the city where KAKH militants had overnight put up placards calling for "vengeance for the martyr who was assassinated by an Arab whose name must be removed from the earth."

Other placards accused journalists, the government, courts and the Israeli leftist circles of being responsible for the hatred that had piled up against Rabbi Kahana. Earlier Wednesday the Israeli Knesset (parliament) held its weekly meeting with heated debates between leftist MPs and those representing the religious parties.

In Tunis, a senior PLO official blamed the Israeli Government for the murder of Rabbi Kahana saying his death was linked to Israel's refusal to open peace talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Salah Khalaf, the PLO's number-two man, said he was opposed to assassinations but stressed that "Kahana was the founder and the apostle of terrorism."

In New York, the suspected killer of Rabbi Kahana was identified as al-Sayyid Nusayr, 34, an Egyptian-born Muslim who worked repairing air conditioners in the Criminal Courts buildings of the city. Mr. Nusayr has denied shooting Rabbi Kahana, whose murder was claimed by the hitherto unknown group "Western Light" Tuesday in Amman.

Rioting Injures Several Persons

TA0711184990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] About 10,000 of Me'ir Kahana's supporters are currently making their way home from Har Hamenuhot Cemetery in Jerusalem following his funeral. Their dispersal has been accompanied by great tension and violent incidents.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that, according to an official statement issued by the police, four Arabs were injured by the mob and two policemen were hurt trying to protect civilians. Our correspondent said that the number of injured is probably greater.

Our correspondent Mira Amsalem got back from the cemetery a short while ago, and she described the occurrences there as frightening. The crowd that arrived at Har Hamenuhot was armed with stones and threw them mainly at media correspondents. When television crews tried to film the funeral, the mob shattered their equipment. Media vehicles were pelted with rocks. The KAKH activists continuously screamed epithets against Arabs and against the media. Israeli television correspondent Beni Liss was beaten and had to flee his pursuers. He was left alone only when he reached Television House. A policeman was injured by a stone at the scene. Another policeman was injured when he attempted to rescue an Arab and get him into an ambulance. An Arab was beaten and injured at a local gas station. At the Giva't Sha'ul junction, ruffians stabbed an Arab in the back.

Our correspondent Rina Matzliah reported that the condition of one of the hospitalized policeman is serious. One of the injured Arabs is also in serious condition. The injuries of the other two casualties were described as light. So far there have been no reports of any arrests of suspected rioters.

Shamir Condemns Violence

TA0711211690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has sharply condemned the violence and disturbances that broke out during and after Rabbi Kahana's funeral. The prime minister said that those who harm security and public order affect the people of Israel first of all and also play into our enemies' hands. The prime minister called on all sectors of the public to carefully avoid any show of violence and to maintain law and order.

The Jerusalem police have so far detained 13 people who rioted during Kahana's funeral, among them a man suspected of hurling the rock that injured the policeman at the entrance of the Israel Television building.

Our correspondent Yaron Enosh toured central Jerusalem this evening, and he reports that quiet prevails now. Large forces of police can be seen everywhere. Many laborers employed at various night jobs showed up for work.

Paper Warns Against Revenge

TA0711160890 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Nov 90 p A12

[Editorial: "The Kahana Murder"]

[Text] History is full of examples in which murders committed by individuals started fires so large they were almost impossible to put out. Will the murder in New York of Rabbi Me'ir Kahana become one of those? Will we now witness waves of murders of innocent people around the world and in Israel, where such murders happened only hours after the initial act? Will we now witness the dangerous phenomenon of an eye for an eye without checking who is being shot and why?

No ideological explanation can justify the criminal act of the murderer who shot the former Knesset member and the leader of the KAKH movement and the Jewish Defense League. Kahana was an easy target: Being as well known in the United States as in Israel, he was not a difficult target for the mad assassin. Naturally, his act will be an internal American affair.

The only thing for us to do under these circumstances is to warn against the continuing deterioration of Jewish-Arab relations—the pace of which has recently quickened. The answer to this will not be to deploy police everywhere. It is impossible to physically protect everyone, all the time, and everywhere.

There is no possible justification for this nefarious murder, even if all Rabbi Kahana's ideas about Eretz Yisra'el and the Arabs in it were condemned by the majority. It should be remembered that Kahana, besides holding racist ideas and making outspoken and malicious remarks, was in the 1960's one of the most determined activists for opening the Soviet gates to Jewish emigration.

A murder is a murder, and every human being must condemn it without reservation. At this time, everyone—Jews and Arabs alike—must keep their cool. We must warn against acts of revenge and avoid them. Kahana's ideas failed to excite many while he was alive. Everything must be done to make sure his murder does not succeed in doing that.

Kakh Leaders Profiled; Party 'Death' Predicted

TA0711152090 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Nov 90 p A4

[Report by Yosi Levi]

[Text] A team including between three and five activists will soon be set up in Kakh to serve as the movement's leadership for the immediate future. They will be chosen from among the following prominent movement leaders:

—Mikha'el Ben-Horin, aged 42, a resident of Nov on the Golan Heights, the president of the organization called the State of Judaea, a captain in the paratroopers, an aeronautics engineer and farmer. Ben-Horin is seen as the movement's ideologue, a charismatic and intelligent figure.

—Moshe Neimann, aged 34, from Mitzpe Yeriho. He was second on Kakh's list for the Knesset in the latest elections (when the movement was outlawed). He is considered an educator and organizer.

Neimann was born in Jerusalem and graduated from Merkaz Harav Yeshiva and the Torah, Judaism, and Education Center affiliated with the Lifshitz College. He was involved in educational projects in development towns, was a central Gush Emunim leader, and today serves as the director general of the Temple Institute. He is a senior member of the movement's secretariat.

—Attorney Rahamim Kohen, a nonobservant Jew who lives in Tel Aviv, one of the founders of the movement and a veteran member of its secretariat. He is the Meqorot Water Company's counselor. He appeared in the third slot on the movement's Knesset list.

—Barukh Marzel, aged 31, married and the father of five, lives in Tall al-Rumaythah in Hebron. He has previously served as the movement's spokesman and as Rabbi Kahana's personal secretary and aide. He has a long record of legal offenses.

—David Ben-Dor, an economist who formulated the movement's economic platform, a former member of the Irgun and BETAR [acronym for Brit Yosef Trumpeldor, the Yosef Trumpeldor Pact, a Zionist youth movement affiliated with the Revisionist Movement]. He has been the second speaker at movement rallies and a candidate for a leadership post.

—Shim'on Rahamim, approximately 40 years old, a resident of Kokhav Hashahar, one of the founders of DOV [acronym for Dikuy Bogdim, Suppression of Traitors], regarded as a man of action.

—The second-row activists include people like Shmu'el Ferber, a reserve officer who lives in Jerusalem; as well as young members such as No'am Federman, who currently serves as the movement's spokesman, and Tiran Polack, who is known to be a central activist. The latter two also have long records of legal offenses.

The assessment is that a split in Kakh after the Kahana era is just a matter of time. The main bodies that will benefit from this break-up will be the right-wing parties, especially Moledet, which will absorb former Kakh members. Kakh's wheels were heavily greased by donations Kahana collected overseas. According to some estimates, he managed to raise more than $500,000 a year. Right now the movement has no one capable of raising similar or even smaller sums, so that it is expected to die a slow death.

IDF on Effects of Lebanese-Syrian Cooperation

TA0711163590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Sources in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] have expressed fear that cooperation between the Lebanese president and Syria will lead to an increase in terrorist attacks against Israel. They said that the recent events in Beirut would have an adverse effect on the security zone. The main problem is the Christian enclave in the Jazzin area. This enclave is of undeniable strategic importance to Israel.

The sources told our army affairs correspondent that somewhere between 800 to 1,100 terrorists currently reside in Tyre and Sidon, the same number as before the Lebanon War. Intensive activities are being carried out in the area, including the construction of training camps.

Soviet, Israeli Officials To Exchange Visits

TA0711150190 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Nov 90 p 11

[Report by Amnon Kapeliuk]

[Text] Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan has been invited to visit Moscow by his Soviet counterpart. The two men will discuss agricultural cooperation between Israel and the Soviet Union.

The visit, which was coordinated by Arye Levin, the head of the Israeli representation in Moscow, will take place at the end of November. Minister Eytan may also hold political meetings.

Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz will arrive in Moscow next Tuesday, before Minister Eytan's visit. Peretz will spend approximately two weeks touring Jewish communities throughout the Soviet Union.

Soviet visitors are also scheduled to come to Israel. This month an important delegation of 16 members of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, headed by their president, Professor Marchuk, will visit. After they leave, an 11-member delegation from the Academy of Agricultural Sciences is scheduled to come. They will be headed by Professor Nikonov. In about three weeks a group of Soviet industrialists is expected.

Gavriil Popov, the mayor of Moscow, is also set to visit Israel this month. He will be the guest of the cities of Tel Aviv and united Jerusalem.

Gaza Officials Reject Elections, Reaffirm PLO

TA0711212090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens met this evening in Jerusalem with 17 Gaza Strip personalities. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that they are not the most prominent Gaza Strip figures. Security sources have reported that the meeting was part of the ongoing dialogue the defense minister maintains with Arab personalities. According to the participants in the meeting, the defense minister raised the issue of elections in Gaza and the idea of a political solution as part of the autonomy, but his interlocutors turned this offer down, saying the PLO is their representative.

Press Office Financed by PLO Closed in Gaza

TA0811054890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Security officials have closed the press office of ('Adil Hanna) in Gaza. According to defense sources, the press office was financed by the PLO and was used as a communications link between Fatah activists in the Strip and organization leaders abroad.

Bus Company Reports Intifadah Attacks, Injuries

TA0711153690 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Nov 90 p A8

[Text] Some 6,617 Egged buses were damaged between the outbreak of the intifadah in December 1987 and September 1990, according to statistics compiled by Egged's security officer, Dani Rodantzky. May 1990 saw the highest number of attacks for one month, with 288 buses damaged. Between May and September, a drop in the number of attacks was noticed. Between January and September 1990—the last month included in the tables—1,811 Egged buses were attacked.

Since the beginning of the intifadah, 510 individuals were hurt, including 414 passengers and 87 drivers [numbers as published]. Seventy-two buses were torched. Egged spokesman Dedi Golan said that despite the large number of attacks, the cooperative will continue to transport passengers on all the lines, including those in the most dangerous areas.

King Husayn Returns From Talks in France

JN0711170090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn returned home this evening after a working visit to Europe that included France and Switzerland during which he held talks with French President Francois Mitterrand on bolstering bilateral relations, the latest developments of the situation in the region, and the appropriate means to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

His Majesty King Husayn also delivered a speech in Geneva to the second world climate conference which began yesterday. On the sidelines of this conference and as part of his contacts to solve the Gulf crisis, his majesty met separately with British Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher and French Prime Minister Michel Rocard.

His Majesty King Husayn told the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY—PETRA upon arrival that his visit to France was good and very satisfactory and that his meetings with the French president and officials took place in a cordial and open atmosphere.

His majesty said: I am in fact very satisfied with my visit to France, especially since our relations are of old standing and growing stronger with time. These relations are also based on mutual respect and concern over joint interests. His majesty said: I am very hopeful that a search for a peaceful solution will take place, instead of, God forbid, having a catastrophe befall us, which will not only include the region, but will go beyond it to a wider range at all levels. [passage omitted]

Minister Says Embargo Causing 'Massive' Losses

PM0711144190 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 5 Nov 90 pp 22-23

[Interview with Jordanian Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din by Hamidah Na'Na' and Faysal al-Shabul in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Reporter] Jordan has chosen the more difficult position on the Gulf. Some recent international initiatives and moves have supported the position Jordan has taken from the very beginning, but conflicting views appear every now and then on the Gulf situation. In your view, where is our region heading?

['Izz-al-Din] It is difficult for me or anyone else to predict in which direction events will move, but one can look at the realities and analyze successive events and reactions.

I do not say that recent developments are a victory for Jordan; they are a victory for peace. Jordan has, from the first moment, placed itself in the peace camp on the basis of a careful analysis of the situation and full awareness of the possible calamities of a devastating war.

As we know, war brings new elements wherever it breaks out. Jordan has from the start concentrated on a course that could lead to a peaceful settlement of the crisis. It did not join the war camp but rather joined the small peace camp, which has grown and is still growing bigger. There is the French initiative. The importance of that initiative is that it came from a head of state with high credibility and a major role in the world and Europe. The significance of the initiative lies in the fact that it was accepted, albeit partially, by the Iraqi leadership. So we have a French European initiative.

There have also been very encouraging signals from the Soviet Union after the Soviet presidential adviser's visit to Baghdad. He has specifically said that "although he was pessimistic when he went to Iraq, he came out of his visit optimistic."

There are many other signs such as, for example, the clear reference in President Bush's statements to the Palestinian question, and the statements made by the British foreign secretary on the same subject. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] King Husayn has walked through minefields before. Do you believe he will embark on some new activity, particularly as the course seems to be easier than before? And, what about the tripartite summit in Morocco?

['Izz-al-Din] Jordan's efforts to find a peaceful way have not stopped, and it has not been detached from the international efforts. World leaders and high-ranking officials have visited Jordan as part of this general activity, which should be given a chance. There must also be an Arab move based on all the ideas being exchanged among a number of Arab states, including Morocco and Algeria, and cooperation among all the Arab sides to come out with some formula from these ideas as well as the European and international ideas. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] Jordan has suffered considerable losses as a result of the blockade imposed against Iraq. What is the scale of the economic losses? Has there been any international response, particularly after Crown Prince Hasan's visit to New York and some European states?

['Izz-al-Din] Jordan is perhaps the state which has suffered most from the Gulf crisis economically. Our losses this year stand at $1.1 billion and, if the current situation continues, our losses will be $2.5 billion next year, which is a massive figure for a country like Jordan.

That is the general economic damage, but if we take into account the harm done to the public as far as displacement, movement from one place to another, increased unemployment, paralysis of Jordan's sole port (al-'Aqabah), and the freezing of Jordan's entire land transport fleet, considering that Jordan relies essentially on transit activity—if we take all that into consideration, then the total losses are great and incalculable.

Great efforts are needed to remedy that within the framework of international cooperation. [passage omitted]

There are some positive signs, but they are insufficient. The Japanese prime minister has visited Jordan and expressed his country's interest in the matter. He promised to help Jordan with easy loans to the value of $100 million. I believe that the Jordanian economic team is satisfied with that. He also confirmed Japan's previous promise of other loans of $150 million.

Germany has promised a grant of 200 million marks. There is a prior loan agreement with Germany amounting to 82 million marks.

We expect the EC to make a decision in the next few days on financial allocations for Jordan. So, we can say that we are still at the beginning of the road but there is interest in Jordan and there is continuous activity.

[Reporter] What has been the psychological effect of Saudi Arabia's decision to stop the supply of oil to you on the pretext of nonpayment?

['Izz-al-Din] We hoped that this measure would not be taken. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is Jordan's neighbor, and neighborhood rights are essential. There are economic, human, and social relations which cannot be severed and which should be kept outside the political framework. There is political plurality at home and plurality of ideas abroad. There is no objection to differences of opinion, but everything connected with the citizens should be kept out of the conflict. States take measures in such circumstances. Jordan's position is that everything connected with trade and public affairs should be kept out of the conflict. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Saudi Arabia stopped the supply of oil, then it expelled Jordanian diplomats, banned Jordanian trucks from entering its territory, and paralyzed your trade activity. Do you not intend to give it the same treatment?

['Izz-al-Din] The Jordanian ambassador has already been recalled from Saudi Arabia. That, in the Jordanian Government's view, was the appropriate measure. Saudi Arabia has recalled a large number of its Amman embassy employees, but there is no need to recall nationals or anything like that.

The question of oil is under discussion between the energy ministry and the Tapline Company.

On the matter of the trucks, Jordan has succeeded through diplomatic channels in persuading Saudi Arabia to rescind its decision, and trucks heading for the Gulf have been allowed through. [passage omitted]

Editorial Comments on Me'ir Kahana's Murder

JN0811110390 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Nov 90 Second Edition pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "So That The Just Solution To All Issues In The Region Can Be Achieved]

[Text] It is no longer possible to separate the Palestine and the Gulf questions from each other, regardless of whether the latter is resolved through peace or war, and whether things remain as they are for a short or long period of time. The connection between the two questions is part of the organic nature of the general political structure in the Middle East. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's initiative to link the two questions came to confirm through daily practice that without a just solution to all standing issues—from their roots—the whole world will remain captive to the constant worry that explodes from unexpected places.

And, here the assassination of Me'ir Kahana, the Zionist mafia's major symbol, confirms with blood that the pains and grievances of the Middle East can explode even in the heart of New York. Therefore, those who procrastinate in forcing the United Nations—and above all, the United States—to shoulder its responsibilities to achieve a radical, comprehensive, and integrated solution to the Middle East issues will also suffer losses no matter how far away they are from the scene.

We say this while leaving a big space for doubt and prediction about those who are behind Kahana's assassination. True, this act responded to the feelings of Arab anger against that man who represents the ugliest forms of blind, racial hatred. However, this does not eliminate the possibility that there may be Israeli or American parties behind the incident, as was the case with other complicated assassinations which were directed from afar and carried out by very pure and virtuous people.

In any case, and regardless of the party that timed the liquidation of a person like Kahana, who is hated by the Arabs and the majority of Jews and wise men in the world; and regardless of the party that executed it, the final result will be to exacerbate matters and start the cycle of bloody violence in the Middle East—a cycle whose beginning and end cannot be determined—because for the Palestinian blood that flows every day, blood will be shed in New York at the hands of youths from Egyptian or Spanish origins.

What is important is that the cycle of hellish violence will continue to demand more blood until all issues of the Middle East, in Palestine and the Gulf, are put within the framework of the just, comprehensive, and radical solution.

Syria, Iran To End Hostage Crisis in 'Weeks'

JN0811155890 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 8 (GNA)—Syria and Iran have reached an agreement on putting an end to the Western hostages crisis in Lebanon within the few weeks to come in light of the present detente in Lebanon, UAE [United Arab Emirates] newspaper 'AL-ITTIHAD' reported today.

The newspaper quoted high ranking sources in Beirut as saying that the agreement followed the talks held by Iranian Vice President Hasan Habibi and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Damascus recently.

Greater Beirut Plan To Be Implemented 10-19 Nov

NC0711164990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1255 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Statement by Justice and Information Minister Edmond Rizq following a Cabinet meeting in Beirut on 7 November—recorded]

[Text] The Cabinet met under the chairmanship of His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi in the presence of Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and the ministers.

His excellency the president began the session with a detailed review of security and political accomplishments which reflect on the economic and social situation. The president noted the public's increasing confidence in the future following the 13 October accomplishment [ousting of General 'Awn] and the state's increasing authority over its territories.

The prime minister emphasized the determination to proceed with the measures to consolidate security, to promote stability, and to ensure the citizens' right to lead free and dignified lives.

The Cabinet members then listened to a detailed report by the two-man ministerial committee on their contacts with the parties concerned and the practical steps that are now being taken. After discussion, the Cabinet decided the following:

1. To voice satisfaction with the positive steps taken so far to restore normal life, extend the state's sovereignty, and ensure the rule of law.

2. To emphasize determination to go ahead with the implementation of the Greater Beirut Plan. This is to begin no later than 10 November and to be completed not later than midnight on 19 November.

It has been decided to tackle any shortcomings and to overcome any obstacles using the appropriate measures; any excesses or violations will not be forgiven. Public opinion must move toward peace, and greater Beirut is an advanced step to be followed throughout the territories.

The Cabinet reiterated its past decisions to ban excesses, to remove violations, and to fill gaps of any kind whatsoever. The Cabinet announced that the sums illegally placed in the names of the elements who were usurping power and rebelling against legitimacy have so far reached $26 million, seven billion Lebanese pounds, and a few million French francs. These amounts represent the proceeds of the Ministries of Industry and Oil, Finance, Telecommunications, and Economy, and the Army, in addition to other amounts placed in special safes in B'abda and other places. The Cabinet instructed the justice minister to ensure that these sums, whether in Lebanon or transferred abroad, are collected.

The Cabinet decided to start to take over government buildings, particularly the Foreign Ministry; the General Directorate of the Internal Security Forces; and all the other buildings that must be recovered by the state to be used by the competent authorities.

The cabinet decided to set up a special building for the presidency on part of the property known as the racetrack circle in Beirut and to build another building for Cabinet offices in an adjacent area. The Cabinet set up a committee comprising Engineers Muhammad Fawwaz, Butrus Barmani, Suhayl (name indistinct), and 'Abd-al-Qadir Abu-al-Jud to supervise a study on renovating and restoring damaged government buildings for use by the competent authorities. The Cabinet decided to relieve Brigadier General Nadim Lutayf [director general of public security] of his post and to refer him to the interior minister.

The Cabinet considers the current era to be one of rebuilding the state, consolidating security and stability, promoting peace, and ending any excesses or violations because the state is determined to ensure that the law takes its course and that nothing obstructs the return of normal life.

The Cabinet will continue to follow up on issues related to day-to-day life, particularly with respect to the public services such as telephones, water, and electricity. The prime minister has ordered some of these departments to be inspected so that all acts of negligence will be brought to account under the law. Everyone must know that after the 13 October accomplishment and after the state has begun to restore its authority over the various territories, the state is now determined to proceed with creating the appropriate atmosphere for a free and dignified life and security. The Greater Beirut Plan is just an advanced and preliminary step toward a greater Lebanon in which all citizens will enjoy equal rights and dignity.

President on Greater Beirut, Syrian Role, 'Awn

PM0711165490 Paris LE MONDE in French 7 Nov 90 p 5

[Interview with President Ilyas Hirawi by Lucien George in Beirut—date not given]

[Text] [George] You have at last taken—or started to take—power almost one year after your election. What will the next stage be?

[Hirawi] Greater Beirut. The following stage will be the formation of a government of national accord which makes provision for six minister-of-state portfolios for the militia chiefs.

[George] Greater Beirut is like a mirage: It has been discussed for 15 years, but will it really become a reality?

[Hirawi] Greater Beirut is a territorial area which is far from negligible because it comprises the capital and a semicircle with a radius of 15 to 25 km—the country's nerve center where more than half its population lives. I stress that, over the years, greater Beirut's dimensions have varied. They have never been as big as is now planned.

It is also a practical and political process. Greater Beirut will enable us to exercise an effective and efficient authority which can gradually be extended. Greater Beirut must not only become a haven of peace, but be a kind of test and a showcase for the new Lebanese state. We no longer want crossing points, but simply streets along which people can travel.

Finally, I would say that greater Beirut is a state of mind: If the reunification of the capital and its environs is now possible, it is because people's mentality has changed. Introducing Muslim soldiers into a Christian zone, and vice versa, was impossible in the past. Nobody minds now. That is my advantage and my hope. Yes, greater Beirut will be a reality.

[George] Will it happen in two weeks, as is being said?

[Hirawi] Before that, I hope. General Lahhud (the head of the Lebanese Army—LE MONDE editor's note) is already preparing the forces that will enter al-Ashrafiyah (the heart of Christian Beirut—LE MONDE editor's note).

[George] So, it will be a Christian unit?

[Hirawi] All the units in our armed forces will henceforth be mixed: Gen. Lahhud is mixing them. He has recovered 12,000 men from General 'Awn's area—almost all his forces—who have been added to the 24,000 already under his orders. He is reshaping all these elements into one army. Unfortunately, with regard to equipment, 'Awn lost half of his armaments, which were our armaments.

Greater Beirut will be a region without arms, aside from those held by the state. There will only be three guards outside the headquarters of the former militias, all equipped with authorization from the Lebanese Army, and it alone. Diplomats, however, will be able to retain their armed escorts because we will not have the means of guaranteeing their security in this phase, especially when they go outside of greater Beirut.

[George] But in 'Awn's former zone there are reports of militias' abusing their powers whereas that zone at least had the advantage of being free of militias.

[Hirawi] In the wake of the 13 October military operation, it is true that some militias have edged their way in. But the armed forces adopted a very firm stance without causing any incidents. Believe me, the problem has already been solved, and those concerned know it. A greater Beirut free from arms, other than state arms, will herald the Lebanon of the future.

[George] Will the Syrians follow the Lebanese Army into the only part of greater Beirut where they currently have no presence—al-Ashrafiyah?

[Hirawi] No. The Syrian Army has only entered areas where it was necessary to fight to restore the legal authorities. Since there is not and will not be a battle in al-Ashrafiyah, the Syrian Army will have no reason to intervene. Moreover, after helping us defeat Gen. 'Awn's rebellion, the Syrians have already regrouped and have greatly reduced their forces. There is provision to do the same even in West Beirut: There they will essentially keep support points, notably at Janah, Awza'i, and Al-Shuwayfat, to intervene at our request. In greater Beirut, the main problem is likely to be that of the southern suburb, despite the positive attitude of Hizballah which has begun to withdraw its arms from there. Syria will continue to take responsibility for that area until peace has been completely restored.

[George] Are Hizballah's Western hostages still in the southern suburb?

[Hirawi] How would I know? The southern suburb is still not completely under control, and the hostages may already have been withdrawn from there and sent south or to the al-Biqa'. During my last meeting with President al-Asad, I raised the question of hostages of all nationalities and requested Syria's aid in securing their release.

[George] The Franjiyah-Sham'un-al-Jumayyil trio are criticized for having brought the Syrian army into Lebanon. Are you not afraid of being accused of bringing it back into the Christian area?

[Hirawi] I will tell you bluntly: The Syrian intervention was vital to restoring the state's authority over Gen. 'Awn, who had become a rebel officer. The Lebanese Army commanded by Gen. Lahhud had troops but no equipment; without tanks, trucks, machine guns, munitions, and virtually without uniforms, what could it do? For months we requested military equipment from all sides: from the West, and from the Arab countries, as gifts or purchases. We only received scraps. The Americans, in particular, refused to supply us with weapons which were ready to be shipped to Lebanon, for which we had already paid in 1986 and for which they also made us pay huge storage charges.

In this situation, President al-Asad is dealing openly with me. I will be equally loyal. He helped me when I requested help. And, when it was no longer needed, he regrouped his Army. The Lebanese people's attempts to play tricks on the Syrians have simply produced disaster; let us be realistic and quite simply sincere.

Our decision to call on the Syrian Army is based on the al-Ta'if agreement approved by 62 deputies comprising, symbolically, 31 Christians and 31 Muslims. Regarding the 1975-1976 Christian leaders, before criticizing them you must remember how precarious, if not desperate, the country's situation was as the time, and the situation of the Christians in Bikfayyah, Zahlah, and Qubayyat.

The Elimination of Gen. 'Awn

[George] Let us turn to Gen. 'Awn's elimination.

[Hirawi] We made every effort to avoid battle, bloodshed, and destruction; we spent 10 months trying to persuade him, using all kinds of intermediaries, especially France and the Vatican. At one point he wanted to negotiate with the tripartite Arab mission. Even then, the French ambassador continued his overtures and we authorized him to continue. But it was in vain.

The Gulf crisis precipitated events; with the dollar at 1,200 [Lebanese] pounds, and electricity, water, and telephone links completely severed, it was necessary to choose between 'Awn—his whims, his about-faces, and his ambitions—and the state. We chose the state and, fortunately, Syria also chose to safeguard the Lebanese state. The blockade was a final attempt to make 'Awn and his supporters face reality. Unfortunately, that too produced no result. Until Friday 12 October, we tried to avoid battle and the ensuing death and destruction. French ambassador Mr. Ala knew that; he was told by Prime Minister al-Huss at 1230 hours that day, after consulting with me on the telephone: "If 'Awn agrees to hand the army back to Gen. Lahhud, even this evening, and does so, everything is open to negotiation."

[George] You say a military operation was inevitable. Fine. But why was there a massacre?

[Hirawi] There were abuses, but were they as serious as has been claimed? The battle was fierce and, even after Gen. 'Awn's surrender had been broadcast, his officers claimed that they had failed to establish radio communiction with their units on the front and that may have been the cause of clashes which were futile and unfortunate. Many figures have been put forward for the number of people killed in the massacres; no proof has been given. I think they are exaggerated.

[George] What about the massacre of Dany Sham'un and his family; can you tell us anything about the identity of the assassins and those behind them?

[Hirawi] Unfortunately, we have no leads so far. Three days before his murder, Dany Sham'un sent me a letter thanking me for showing concern about his safety.

Why were you concerned about it? Did you have any reason for concern?

[Hirawi] No. But experience told me that any attempt at pacification is accompanied by attacks in Lebanon. Dany was 'Awn's most prominent supporter, and I was anxious that no harm should come to any of them.

[George] There is another controversy—the one surrounding the circumstances under which Gen. 'Awn took refuge in the French embassy.

[Hirawi] Everything is clear: Ambassador Ala called me and it is true that, within the framework of the procedure for proclaiming the cease-fire, I agreed that Gen. 'Awn—but only him and not all his officers who eventually accompanied him—should go to the French embassy, which would have guaranteed his safety and which implied diplomatic asylum.

Political asylum may be the logical follow-up of diplomatic asylum, but it is not automatic. To move from French territory in the form of the Embassy to French territory itself, it is necessary to cross Lebanese territory. And Gen. 'Awn must answer three extremely serious accusations: the misappropriation of public funds, the instigation of wars, and rebellion! That cannot be ignored. Gen. 'Awn enjoys France's protection inside the Embassy or the ambassador's residence. He cannot come out without risking punishment.

[George] That is a legal reply. Do we not need a political solution to a political problem?

[Hirawi] The political reply is that the rebellion of an officer cannot go unpunished. What if some brigade commander followed 'Awn's precedent in the future? What if the Toulon or Dijon garrison commander rebelled and managed to take refuge in the Lebanese Embassy in Paris? Can you imagine the French Government authorizing his transfer to Beirut?

[George] When will the militias be disbanded, and what will happen to their weapons?

[Hirawi] The militias will cease to exist on 21 March 1991, and the weapons still in their possession will have to be handed over to the state. Regarding their members, we will try to recruit them into the various state security forces.

[George] Once the Lebanese militias have disappeared, will the armed Palestinian organizations be able to continue to exist?

[Hirawi] There will be no Palestinian or other militias. The Palestinians in particular will be disarmed and placed under the protection of the state armed forces, as in all Arab countries. I am aware that there will be a problem in the south, because it is partly occupied by Israel. We will tackle that problem.

[George] What about the Syrian Army?

[Hirawi] On 21 September 1992 at the very latest, it will withdraw to the Al-Biqa'. I am convinced that President al-Asad and his government will be anxious to keep their promise and that nothing will prevent them from doing so.

Premier Al-Huss Views Peace Prospects

PM0811105990 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 3 Nov 90 p 8

[Interview with Prime Minister Salim al-Huss by Tomas Alcoverro in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] Beirut—Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss has his official residence on the sixth floor of an ordinary building in the populous Muslim district of 'Aysh al-Bakr.

[Alcoverro] Has peace been established in Lebanon, or, as on so many other occasions, has a fragile truce, favored by the new international circumstances—especially the current Gulf conflict—begun?

[Al-Huss] This is a great opportunity for peace. We hope that a period of stability has begun. We believe that the war is over, has been left behind. We are now seeking the means to ensure stability and to tackle the work of rebuilding.

[Alcoverro] What are the greatest obstacles to this peace? Could you specify them?

[Al-Huss] There is no "major obstacle" except the continuation of the Israeli occupation in Lebanon. There are, however, many problems connected with the peace process. For instance, the catastrophic state in which the nation's infrastructure has been left after 15 years of war must be resolved. The state must again provide the population with services. The new generation has been greatly affected by the war. Immense material resources are needed to tackle rebuilding. The "triumvirate" comprising Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Algeria appointed by the Arab League has sought to set up an "international fund for rebuilding Lebanon." Its first meeting should have been held in Jiddah in September, but the Gulf conflict necessitated postponing it. I hope that all the efforts made in this direction can bear fruit early next year.

[Alcoverro] General Michel 'Awn is still an asylee at the French Embassy, and the Paris government has decided to grant him political asylum. How will this problem be resolved?

[Al-Huss] There is no real problem, and relations with France are so strong that they cannot be affected by this incident. It is true that 'Awn is still at the Embassy, but we are determined to make national interests prevail in this matter. He can stay at the Embassy until France hands him over to us. Our position is very clear.

[Alcoverro] Will Gen. 'Awn be tried?

[Al-Huss] Officially his case has already been referred to the Lebanese courts, and his trial has now been prepared.

[Alcoverro] Syria's presence in Lebanon is a contentious matter in the West. What will be its role in this Lebanon which is striving to rid itself of war?

[Al-Huss] The role that Syria will play will naturally be positive and friendly. Syria is our great neighbor, is deeply interested in Lebanon, and we share with it many things that mutuallyaffect us. There is an understanding about the future between our two countries.

[Alcoverro] What lesson can be drawn from these 15 years of death and devastation in Lebanon?

[Al-Huss] If any conclusion can be drawn it is that violence cannot resolve our problems; that they must be resolved through a peaceful and democratic debate. This is the only means that we Lebanese have to organize our coexistence.

After our interview was over, Salim al-Huss received in an adjoining room Mrs. Rene Mu'awwad, widow of the president assassinated 21 November 1989—national independence day. The prime minister is finalizing the plans for Beirut's "unification," with the withdrawal and disarming of the militias in the metropolitan area.

But, despite the promises and the positive signs, not all Lebanese feel confident about their success. Peace frightens many people...

Reaction to Amal-Hizballah Accord in Damascus

Al-Tufayli Urges Implementation

NC0811091490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has stressed the need to implement the Damascus accord.

While inspecting Islamic resistance positions on the confrontation line in western al-Biqa', he noted that Hizballah advocates security for everyone and expansion of the security plan to cover not only greater Beirut but all the Lebanese territories. This, he said, will strengthen the internal front and allow everyone to devote their time to fighting the Zionist enemy.

Welcomed by Lebanese Ulema

LD0811111390 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Beirut, Nov. 8, IRNA—Association of Lebanese Muslim Ulema in an statement issued here Thursday [8 November] expressed satisfaction over last Monday's peace agreement between Lebanese Hizballah forces and Amal Movement.

It lauded the benevolent endeavors of both Iran and Syria in this connection and urged the two rival Shi'ite Muslim groups to take a lesson of their past mistakes.

It also called on the two groups to abide by the new agreement and campaign unitedly against the usurper Zionist regime.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Islamic al-Da'wah party's office here, Wednesday appreciated efforts of Iran and Syria in bringing a compromise between the two Lebanese groups.

It hoped that bloody confrontations between the two belligerent sides would come to an end forever and complete unity would be established instead enabling them to fight off enemies of Islam, led by the U.S. and the Zionist regime.

Lebanese-Syrian Committee Takes Over Centers

NC0811063290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] The Lebanese-Syrian Coordination Military Committee took over four party centers in the two al-Matn regions yesterday. Work is under way to reopen roads and crossing points. The al-'Adliyah to al-Ashrafiyah road was reopened yesterday. The al-Qulay'at road will be reopened when all the mines have been removed.

Lebanese Forces Respond to Reports on Meetings

Inaccuracy Alleged

NC0811111890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Forces' Information Department]

[Text] Certain media have been circulating reports about contacts and meetings held by leaders and officials in the Lebanese Forces. While noting the inaccuracy of these reports, the Information Department hopes that the media organs will seek to obtain accurate and correct information from their sources and will verify their reports before publication.

Further on Car Bomb Explosion at 'Awkar Square

Military Prosecutor Investigates

NC0711202890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] We have received the following from the military prosecutor general:

At 1240 today, a booby-trapped car exploded in the 'Awkar Square, killing three people, wounding 24, and causing material damage to surrounding buildings.

Military Prosecutor General Khalid Hammud and Military Police Commander Brigadier General Jamil Nasif arrived on the scene at once. Military investigations began immediately in the presence of the military experts and teams from the criminal evidence department.

The military prosecutor issued the necessary judicial warrants and briefed Minister of Justice and Information Edmund Rizq on the situation.

[In a Beirut-datelined item at 1822 GMT, Paris AFP in English adds, "At least six people were killed Wednesday, including a family of five, and 15 others wounded when a car rigged with explosives exploded outside a bakery in a Christian suburb north of here.

"The blast occurred in 'Awkar, 20 meters (yards) away from an office belonging to the pro-Damascus Syrian National Social Party.

"A spokesman for the party said the bomb killed the bakery's owner, his wife and their three children.

"AL-DIYAR newspaper said its reporter Ni'mat al-Siba'i who was in the area was also killed by the bomb.

"Security sources said at least 15 people were wounded in the blast, including SNSP militants and, according to the party, three other journalists."

AFP also says, "The SNSP said that the booby-trapped car was a beige Renault 5 loaded with between 50 and 75 km (110 and 165 pounds) of TNT.

"The explosion left only the motor intact, and dug a crater 50 centimeters (1.5 feet) deep and one meter (three feet) across."]

Death Toll Reaches Eight

NC0811062690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Excerpt] The explosion of the booby-trapped car in 'Awkar square yesterday, which targeted a social health center belonging to the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, left eight people dead and 24 others wounded. A number of shops, buildings, and establishments were damaged in the blast. [passage omitted]

Phalangists Deny Involvement

NC0811110990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Excerpt] The Information Office of Lebanese Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah issued a statement in response to a Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] statement in which it accused the Phalangist Party of causing the 'Awkar explosion. The Phalangist Party's statement dismissed the charge. [passage omitted]

Israel Reportedly Making Border Military Moves

Helicopter Flights Reported

NC0711201690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] According to reports from the South tonight, military moves have been monitored in border zone areas. Israeli military helicopters flew over Shab'a, the vicinity of Hasbayya, western al-Biqa', and Nahr al-Hasbani. Machine-gun fire was directed from the Zummarayya position against Mimis and the al-Ahmadiyah position.

Reinforcements Sent to UN Areas

NC0811075490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Israeli helicopters flew a reconnaissance sortie over Sidon and the neighboring coastal area at 2000 last night.

Meanwhile, AFP has cited a security source in Rashayya as saying that yesterday Israel sent reinforcements to the south areas in which the UN forces are operating. The source said that approximately 60 soldiers in five military vehicles towing 155-mm field guns were sent to the Kawkaba axis in the eastern sector.

Militias, Syria Warned Against Attacking Jazzin

TA0811073790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Nov 90 pp 1, 10

[Report by Joshua Brilliant and Bradley Burston]

[Text] Al-Majidiyah, Lebanon—A rise in Syrian-sponsored terrorism against Israel may be the result of the "new order" now emerging in Lebanon, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Northern Command sources said yesterday during a tour of the security zone for military reporters. The tour included meetings with [South Lebanese Army Commander] Lahd, Brig.-Gen. Ze'ev Zakharin, commander of the Liaison Unit to Lebanon, and officers in the Northern Command.

During the tour, the IDF's continued commitment to the security of its allies in southern Lebanon was reiterated, and Lebanese militias—and Damascus—were warned not to attack the Jazzin area, north of the zone.

Cooperation in the Syrian-sponsored "greater Beirut" scheme may result in various militias turning their common attention south, the sources warned, adding that the number of armed Palestinians based in Tyre and Sidon has returned to pre-Lebanon War levels.

This assessment was shared by Lahd.

"The degree of Syrian influence following recent developments is 100 percent, and there is a desire on Syria's part to influence southern Lebanon as well," he said. "The Syrians will turn all the hostile groups, Amal and Hizballah, to actions against the south."

There is no doubt the level of military activity will intensify, Lahd said, "but the South Lebanon Army is prepared to meet the challenge, provided that Syria does not directly intervene."

Lahd said that the agreement signed in Damascus earlier this week between Amal and Hizballah is not a Lebanese document, but rather a treaty between Syria and Iran. Both Lahd and IDF sources stressed the potential instability of the agreement, which mandates shared control of Shiite forces.

Between 800 and 1,100 members of Palestinian groups are now based in Tyre and Sidon, a number equal to their strength prior to the 1982 Lebanon War, the Northern Command sources said. But the forces there lack the stores of weaponry that existed before the war, they observed.

"The Palestinians are building an ever-stronger infrastructure," said one Northern Command officer, "and we don't see any element in Lebanon with the strength to break up that infrastructure." The sources cast doubt on the stated aim of the Lebanese Army to gain exclusive control of Beirut and its environs by disarming the militias active in the area.

The "test-case" for rising anti-Israel terror activity over the coming months will be Jazzin, with its 98 percent Christian population, which is under mainly SLA [South Lebanese Army] control.

"If Jazzin falls," the sources said, "the whole security zone will be in danger."

They noted that terrorist attacks against Israel have significantly decreased over the past year, with only one terror squad succeeding in reaching the border between Israel and Lebanon.

[Writing on page 7 of the same issue of THE JERUSALEM POST, Joshua Brilliant reports from Marj 'Uyun: "The security zone in Southern Lebanon costs Israel some $30 million a year, defense reporters were told here.

["Brig. Gen. Ze'ev Zakharin, commander of the Liaison Unit to Lebanon, told visiting reporters that the IDF logistics branch budgeted some communications equipment and other gear (including armored vehicles).

["The Defense Ministry allocated $8.192m. for wages, computers, communications and other costs. Some $1.8m. was earmarked for training.

["The Treasury forwarded $3.913m. for civilian projects, Zakharin said.

["Another, unspecified allocation covers the costs of maintaining his headquarters here, he added."]

U.S. Envoy, Foreign Minister Discuss Crisis

JN0711164390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this afternoon met with John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, in the presence of Yusuf Shakkur, assistant to the foreign minister, and Edward Djerejian, U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Kelly reviewed the outcome of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to a number of states in the region and the U.S. position on proposed options to handle the Gulf crisis.

For his part, Faruq al-Shar' explained Syria's position on the Gulf crisis and its pan-Arab commitments to the security of the sisterly Arab states in the Gulf. He also explained Syria's stance on the Arab-Israeli conflict and on the unjustified U.S. military aid to Israel, while stressing that Syria rejects Washington's exploitation of the Gulf crisis to support Israel and to link the two issues.

Al-Shar' on Arab Security

JN0711204590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2015 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Excerpt] Commenting on the statements made by U.S. envoy John Kelly on the American commitment to Israeli security, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that the position of the U.S. Administration does not take into consideration the national security of Syria or pan-Arab security.

Al-Shar' asked: What about Syria's national security and pan-Arab security, which is facing two threats? One of them is the constant Israeli threat and now a new threat resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Al-Shar' said that the United States' continued arms support for Israel is completely at odds with its declared rejection of linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict, something that Syria has rejected since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

Envoy Concludes Visit

JN0811075190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0715 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus—John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, left Damascus at dawn today. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister; Hani Halimah, chief of protocol; and Edward Djerejian, U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Dispatch of Troops to Gulf 'Serves Arab Unity'

JN0811071190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "For Whose Interest Is This Persistence in Intransigence?" AL-BA'TH editorial today discusses Syria's pan-Arab position toward the Gulf crisis and stresses that it is nothing new for Syria to support brothers in times of danger. It says that Syria, despite the heavy burden of confrontation which it has been bearing for many years, never hesitated to respond to the brotherly and pan-Arab call of duty whenever there was need.

AL-BA'TH adds: When Syria sends its forces to an Arab country, it does so to defend a sisterly country—something that protects pan-Arab destiny and serves Arab unity. This is not a protection of colonialism nor service to Zionism. Such a position is nothing new as far as Syria is concerned. The paper adds: We are against the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait because we stand with the peoples of Iraq and Kuwait and the Arab nation, and because we care much for Iraq, its spiritual and financial values, and its economic, human, and military resources.

Retraction of mistakes, says the paper, is something wise and exemplary, whereas persistence in error is a road to suicide. There is an honorable Arab way out to defuse the explosive situation and protect Iraq; namely, accepting and implementing the Cairo summit resolution and resolving Arab differences within an Arab framework and in a spirit of brotherhood and common destiny. Concluding, AL-BA'TH wonders: Will the brothers in Iraq think carefully about the current situation and the dangers to them in the first place and to the region in the second? Will they go back on their mistake before we and others say it is too late for regret?

Paper Says Resumed UK Ties Will Help Hostages

JN0711141090 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0930 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, 7 Nov (SANA)—In an editorial published today under the headline "London and the Misguided Preludes," the newspaper TISHRIN says that London's rupture of ties with Damascus was not prompted by disputes or differences of opinion between the two countries, but rather by falsehoods propagated by Zionism and accepted as true immediately without any scrutiny or careful examination by Mrs. Thatcher's government.

The paper adds: The clouds of deception obstructing the view of the West have been removed. Consequently, the truth, which was clouded by bias and hostility, has been revealed. This truth is that Damascus has nothing to do with terrorism and that Syria is struggling against terrorism, because on more than one occasion it has been the victim of terrorism. That is why the Western states took the initiative of improving their ties with Damascus. However, the intransigence and unrealistic attitude of the British Government has driven it to adhere to a hostile line against Damascus.

The paper adds that the Thatcher government's submission to the Zionist wishes has caused grave damage to the British people who have no vested interests in promoting anti-Syria hostility. Instead of hastening to correct this mistake, the British Government has moved in the opposite direction. It recently prompted the EC to maintain sanctions against Syria. Also, it made efforts to ensure that Damascus is held responsible for the fate of the British hostages held captive in Lebanon.

The paper continues: The British Government itself has done nothing to prepare the atmosphere for the release of its nationals. Not only this, this government's conduct has torpedoed many opportunities for freeing British hostages.

TISHRIN says: Damascus has made public its condemnation of hostage taking. Likewise, it has made strenuous efforts to obtain the release of a number of Western hostages being held in Lebanon. Now that all this has been said, nobody can expect Syria to play the role of the British Government in showing concern about the British hostages. Had this government been concerned about its nationals, it would have taken the initiative to rectify the situation with Damascus. Moreover, it would have restored ties with Syria. Only then would propitious circumstances be created to prompt Damascus to do its utmost to search for the British hostages in Lebanon and secure their release. Furthermore, the restoration of ties would serve British interests.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: The stifling crisis currently plaguing Mrs. Thatcher's government has clearly shown the futility of this government's course so far. Also, this government has shown itself to be subservient to Zionism. Facts show that adherence to this course has caused problems for Britain. Hence, a retreat from it would create circumstances for Mrs. Thatcher's government to get out of the current crisis with the least losses.

Official Criticizes U.S. Support for 'Zionists'

JN0711203690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, the fourth general conference of the dentists' union opened today at the 7 April Hall at the Party's Damascus Branch with the slogan "Dentists in the Syrian Arab Republic Are the Health Soldiers of the Revolution; They Renew the Pledge of Loyalty and Gratitude to the Leader of the Nation, Struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, in the March of Progress and Liberation."

Comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, deputized for the president. The conference was attended by the comrade members of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, comrade members of the Central Command of the National Progressive Front, and a number of ministers. [passage omitted]

Comrade Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the party and President al-Asad's representative, delivered a speech. He first conveyed to all the dentists of Syria President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings, appreciation, and pride in all of them and all producers who work diligently and conscientiously. [passage omitted]

On the situation in Lebanon, the president's representative asserted that Syria has always been lying in wait for all the colonialist and Zionist conspiracies to which Lebanon has been subjected. He said Syria will always stand by the Lebanese brothers, help and assist them, and carry out its honest pan-Arab role of salvation. It will always reunite citizens and unify ranks and work with all its power to aim guns and capabilities at the arena of conflict with the Zionist enemy.

On the situation in the Gulf, which was touched off by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Comrade Qaddah said: We have rejected and condemned the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait. Moreover, we believe this action contradicts the simplest rules of Arab brotherhood; we found it conflicting with the bases and concepts of Arab unity. He reasserted that Syria's position since the inception of the invasion has been unambiguous and outspoken. We still assert that the crisis has to be circumvented and defused to avoid the conflagration which will only benefit the Zionist and imperialist enemy.

The president's representative added: The Iraqi regime should go back on its occupation of the State of Kuwait and withdraw its forces from Kuwaiti territory. It should also return Kuwait to its former condition. Then, the pretext for a foreign presence in our homeland will disappear and the manifestations of the disaster will be cleared away.

Comrade Qaddah recalled President al-Asad's call on Iraq to end its aggression. He said this is a true, honest, and sincere pan-Arab call, a reflection of the genuine pan-Arab self.

The president's representative asserted that Arab Syria is tirelessly struggling for the establishment of Arab unity and appealing for the elimination of differences and an end to pan-Arab fragmentation, especially at this stage in which the Israeli enemy is one of the major beneficiaries of the Gulf crisis, and at the same time when the United States is capitalizing on this crisis and using it as a pretext and excuse to lavish on the Israeli military arsenal the most modern weaponry.

Comrade Qaddah wondered how peace could be established in the region in the light of the financial and military capabilities being piled upon the Israeli enemy. He stated that the massacres that are being committed by the Zionist enemy against our kinsfolk in the occupied Arab territories are all taking place in light of the current Arab fragmentation and the degenerate reality of the Arab nation. These massacres are also taking place under the umbrella of the huge U.S. support for the Zionists.

The president's representative called on the Arabs to have a conscious, honest, and farsighted pan-Arab look to save the nation from the devastating cataclysm and to live up to the level of the grave events threatening the nation. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Soviet Ambassador Gives Anniverary Address

LD0711180790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Address to the Afghan people by Soviet Ambassador Boris Pastukhov on the 7 November anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution—recorded; Pastukhov speaks in Russian with superimposed Dari translation]

[Excerpts] Esteemed gentlemen and comrades, dear Afghan friends. Today the Soviet people and their friends all over the world are marking the 73d anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. [passage omitted]

Dear friends, Soviet-Afghan friendship has a long historical, lasting, and profound base. The foundation of this friendship was laid by two great personalities of our time—V.I. Lenin and Amanolah Khan. There have been difficult pages too in the history of our relations which still bring pain to the hearts of human beings. However, the new revolutionary approach to matters of foreign policy and the new political thinking which is the product of reconstruction, resulted in the signing of the Geneva Accords. The courage of the leaders of Afghanistan, the wisdom of esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, and his loyalty to national interests made possible the return of the Soviet troops to their country.

I woud like to point out that, as in the first years, diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan proved the correctness of the statement by V.I. Lenin, who said: With the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two great peoples a mutual possibility has been created against all sorts of encroachment by foreign savagers against the freedom and wealth of others.

These words, today too, when foreign (?military) intervention in the affairs of Afghanistan has not ceased, enjoy (?validity). The people of the Soviet Union will stand on your side, dear friends, in your courageous struggle for the purpose of peace and the reconstruction of the country and your struggle against a fratricidal war which has been imposed on you by extremists and their foreign supporters.

Our country, as before, will continue its economic, military, and technical assistance to Afghanistan. The Soviet Union has participated in international programs through the United Nations and it share totals $600 million. We are making efforts with all possible means to enhance the mutual fruitfulness of economic cooperation between our countries. We are interested that cooperation with the private sector of the Afghan economy should be further expanded and fruitful. We are fully confident that mutually beneficial cooperation, direct links between the provinces of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, Moscow, and Kabul will expand further. This cooperation and good relations could help toward the prosperity of our Afghan friends. We sincerely wish for peace and the prosperity of our neighbor, the Republic of Afghanistan, and we wish for the success of the policy of national reconciliation.

The new plans of the irreconcilable groups of the opposition for military victory (?were) faced with final defeat and it is obvious that only through political means can the solution of the problem of Afghanistan and [the area] around it be achieved. This fact has been well realized by the international community and proof of this is the unanimous resolution of the United Nations concerning Afghanistan which was passed a short time ago.

All of your true friends welcomed the enhancement of the international prestige of the Republic of Afghanistan. A cease-fire, negotiations between the forces involved in war, free elections, the return of refugees, the revival of the economy, the development of culture, science, and education [word indistinct] which finally result in the [word indistinct] of a free, nonaligned, neutral, Islamic, and prosperous Afghanistan—an Afghanistan which lives in peace with all of its neighbors. The Soviet people wish you success in this way.

Dear friends, allow me to wish well-being to every Afghan family and wish your children health and prosperity. I would like, dear friends, to conclude my statement with this slogan: Long live the indelible Soviet-Afghan friendship!

Rebel Positions Shelled; Kabul Airport Reopens

BK0711132290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1303 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Kabul, Nov 7 (AFP)-Kabul international airport, closed by a mujahidin rocket attack Tuesday, reopened Wednesday afternoon after troops pounded guerrilla positions with heavy artillery, officials said. Troops fired volleys of Soviet-made Garad rockets at suspected mujahidin positions from where dozens of rockets had been launched at the airport and residential areas of the capital, they said.

But despite the retaliatory strikes, diplomats said two more rockets hit the airport Wednesday morning forcing the cancellation of a United Nations flight from Islamabad. "We reopened the airport at 1 p.m. (0830 GMT)," an airport spokesman said, attributing the closure to a "technical problem" after Tuesday's rocket attack.

He declined to say whether any equipment at airport which is also shared by the Afghan Air Force was damaged in the attack. Official sources said about 20 rockets hit the airport area with at least nine of them scoring direct hits inside the complex close to the main runway.

Government spokesman Humayun Mukammel said troops had retaliated strongly and attacked rocket launching positions overlooking the capital. Residents here saw intense activity by air force attack helicopters and military observers said the aircraft appeared to be heading for the mountains where the mujahidin are known to have camps.

The airport reopening came hours after the government military activity subsided and airport officials said a flight from New Delhi which was turned back Tuesday should arrive later in the day. Another Ariana Afghan airlines flight for Moscow left Wednesday after a delay of about four hours, officials said.

Rockets continued to hit the city Wednesday however, but without the intensity of Tuesday's attack. The government put casualties Tuesday at one dead and 13 seriously injured but gave no official figure for the number of missiles which hit the city. Airport sources said several military personnel were among the injured but that no aircraft were hit. Kabul does not announce military casualties in rocketting of the city.

Missiles Kill 13 in Herat, Three in Kabul

LD0711165190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Warmonger extremists martyred 13 people and injured 53 others yesterday when they fired four surface-to-surface missiles into the city of Herat. The Bakhtar Information Agency [BIA] section correspondent from the city of Herat reports two missiles landed at 1000 on a crowd of people who had gathered in front of a ration card store in the city for purchasing their goods of primary necessities. As a result 13 people, including women and children, were martyred and 53 others were injured. Two other Missiles hit a 200-bed hospital in Herat where five people including two hospital officials, who were engaged in treating the wounded, were injured. The injured were taken to hospital for treatment quickly by security officials and were taken into intensive medical care and treatment.

According to another report Lieutenant General Abdor Ra'uf Begi, commandant of Herat Army and head of the leadership of the province, visited hospitalized injured people and gave them a sum of money.

According to another report three Kabul residents were martyred today and six others were injured as a result of U.S. surface-to-surface missiles fired into Kabul by extremists. The BIA military section reports: The injured were taken to hospital quickly and were taken under intensive medical treatment and care. From the the 16 missiles fired today from the northeast, four landed in the residential area of ward 10 where [apart from casualties] they caused material losses too. twelve other missiles landed in uninhabited areas around the city of Kabul. Today's missiles were SAKAR type which are given to the extremists by the USA, the so-called defender of the human rights in the world, against international norms for the genocide of our Muslim and faithful compatriots.

Military Official Describes Results of Operations

LD0811065490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0455 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 7 BAKHTAR—The detachments of the armed forces of Kabul Garrison General Command have conducted victorious military activities in the direction of Arghandi, Kabul Province and Maidan Shahr, Vardak Province recently as a result of which heavy losses have been inflicted on extremist groups, says major General Mohammad Yunus, secretary for the commission of [word indistinct] Political Affairs Department in an interview with a BAKHTAR military correspondent.

He added that during this operation a lot of arms and ammunitions including 17 BM-1 units, five units of Sacker launcher, 19 mortars, three recoilless cannons, 11 machine-guns, 8 rocket launchers, five machine-guns P.K., 19 Kalashinkovs, four depots of ammunitions, 38 vehicles loaded with arms and ammunitions and 37 of the enemy's hideouts have been destroyed and eleven assorted weapons, 226 assorted heavy weapons [word indistinct] and tens of anti- personnel mines have fallen at the hands of the armed forces.

The detachments, which enjoy high military preparedness, have the capability to inflict crushing blows on the enemy and to paralyse their plots and conspiracies.

Mujahidin Rockets in Herat, Kabul, Kill 21

BK0811105090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1034 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Kabul, Nov 8 (AFP)—Mujahidin rocket attacks on Afghanistan's key western city of Herat and the capital, Kabul, left at least 21 dead and more than 60 injured, officials here said Thursday. One rocket slammed into a government store in Herat late Wednesday, killing 13 people waiting for their food rations, a government spokesman said.

He said 53 other people, mostly women and children, standing in a queue outside the store were seriously wounded. Another rocket hit the 200-bed hospital in Herat, killing five people and seriously wounding three, the spokesman said.

Two more rockets hit residential areas in Herat City, 1,100 kilometers (680 miles) from here, but there were no reports of casualties. Prosperous Herat City, close to Afghanistan's border with Iran, has been virtually free of rocket attacks for the past seven months.

The mujahidin hit Kabul for the second day Wednesday, firing 16 missiles which left at least three dead and six wounded, the spokesman said. The rockets hit residential areas in the city's northeast, close to the high-security international airport also used by the Afghan air force.

There was heavy rocketting of the city and the airport Tuesday, disrupting flights and forcing its closure for several hours and again on Wednesday. The airfield re-opened after the army rocketted suspected mujahidin positions near the capital.

A few explosions were also heard early Thursday but it was not immediately clear if they were rockets fired by the mujahidin or the government. More than one million people have died in the 12-year war between the Soviet-backed government in Kabul and the mujahidin.

Bangladesh

Students, Police Clash in Rajshahi; 50 Injured

BK0711155790 Hong Kong AFP in English
1520 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 7 (AFP)—Police fired blank shots and used teargas in a western Bangladesh city on an opposition student demonstration in which some 50 people were injured, local police said Wednesday. The students set ablaze three government vehicles and damaged several ceremonial arches for the newly-appointed ruling party mayor in Rajshahi, a police spokesman said by telephone.

He said that 40 students and nine policemen received minor injuries during the clashes late Tuesday near the mayor's office. Press reports said most of the injured students were treated at private clinics.

The clashes followed when police broke up a procession of several hundred students belonging to a local chapter of the All Party Students Unity (APSU) as it was passing the mayoral office to lay siege to a nearby government office at Rajshahi, 180 kilometres (112 miles) from here.

APSU is playing a vital role in the current opposition-led campaign against the regime of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad. The march Tuesday at Rajshahi was part of the campaign launched by Bangladesh's major opposition political parties and their student fronts.

No major violence was reported from other cities and towns. In an unrelated incident in the southeastern port city of Chittagong, at least five medical students were injured when rival groups clashed Tuesday at a government medical college, press reports here said without details.

Professional Groups Say Ershad Encourages Riots

BK0811085690 Hong Kong AFP in English
0831 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 8 (AFP)—Leaders of several Bangladeshi professional and cultural groups Thursday accused the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad of fanning communal strife in order to thwart the opposition movement. At a peace rally here at the National Press Club, leaders of the combined professional committee extended their support to the on-going opposition movement against the regime of President Ershad.

They alleged that the present government had jeopardised the age-old communal amity between the country's majority Moslems and minority Hindus in a bid to divert attention from the current movement. The group also supported the scheduled November 10 country-wide strike called by the mainstream opposition political parties to mark the third anniversary of the 1987 "Dhaka Seige," when Mr. Ershad was nearly toppled.

At least three people were killed during clashes between activists and security forces on that day. The opposition has been campaigning for eight years for Mr. Ershad's resignation and holding of elections under an interim neutral government.

Police earlier stopped the committee from holding a peace rally in Bahadur Shah Park in the old walled parts of the capital city, where a government ban is still in force restricting gatherings of more than five people. The restriction was imposed after violent Hindu-Moslem clashes November 1 following the storming by Hindus of a mosque at Ayodhya in northern India.

Three Hindu-dominated areas are close to the park. The committee, which represents artists, lawyers, teachers and performers, emerged after anti-Ershad agitation on October 10.

India

Government Collapses as Confidence Motion Fails

Gandhi Addresses Lok Sabha

BK0711150390 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] The special session of the Lok Sabha is witnessing a marathon debate on the motion of confidence moved by the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, in his government following withdrawal of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] support. Charges and counter-charges are being traded between the National Front and other political parties. The prime minister virtually admitted that he has lost the majority support in the house, but called upon the members to vote according to their conscience.

The leader of the opposition, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, opposing the confidence motion, made a frontal attack on the government and said its performance in every field has been dismal. He also accused the government of indulging in hypocrisy and duplicity. He said the government has been playing up casteism against communalism and through its action has generated so much social tension that will take a long time to calm down. Referring to the anti-Mandal agitation [against job reservation policy], he said hundreds of children have lost their lives, but the prime minister had kept mum. He said the rise in communalism and instances of violence are also the direct result of what the government has been doing in the last 11 months.

The BJP leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, also opposing the confidence motion, said that his party has withdrawn its support to the government because of its non-performance, as has been pointed out by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi as well. He said the party, while extending support to the government, when it came into being had made it clear that the party has its own views on certain matters and it will not be prepared to make compromises on that.

Singh Resigns

BK0711174990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1730 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] The National Front government has fallen. The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, lost his motion of confidence in the Lok Sabha a short while ago after a marathon debate of about 11 hours. The one-line motion was voted against by 346 members, while 142 members cast in favor. There were eight abstentions. A total of 496 members were present in the house.

The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has resigned. AIR [All India Radio] parliamentary correspondent reports that the voting was on a predictable line. The Congress-I, The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and nearly all the members who supported Mr. Chandra Shekhar voted against the motion. The official Janata Dal and a few members of the other constituents of the National Front, along with their supporting left parties, voted in favor.

Singh Resignation Accepted

BK0811065690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] The president has accepted the resignation of the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, and his Council of Ministers. According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] communique issued a short while ago, the president has asked Mr. V.P. Singh to continue till alternative arrangements are made. Mr. V.P. Singh had submitted his resignation to the president last night after he was voted out of power in the Lok Sabha. Mr. V.P. Singh called on the president this morning and was with him for about 20 minutes.

Talking to newsmen after his meeting, Mr. V.P. Singh said that he apprised the president of his party's position on the latest political developments. Asked if he has submitted to the president certain documents relating to the Bofors [Swedish howitzer] deal, Mr. V.P. Singh said that he will not divulge the government's secrets.

Efforts to form a new government get under way today with several political party leaders slated to meet the president at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Janata Dal president, Mr. Bommai, told newsmen last night that he would submit a memorandum to the president today on the constitutional and legal issues relating to the formation of a new government.

The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, is also meeting the president to present his party's views and stand in the present situation. The president is exploring all options before him on the formation of a new government at the center.

Venkataraman, Gandhi Meet

BK0811085090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, has asked the Congress-I president and the leader of the opposition, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, if he is willing and able to form a viable government. A Rashtraparti Bhavan [president house] spokesman told AIR [All India Radio] correspondent that the president conveyed this when Mr. Rajiv Gandhi called on Mr. Venkataraman this morning. He said Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's reply is awaited.

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi later told waiting newsmen at Rashtrapati Bhavan that there is no change in his party's stand on extending support to Mr. Chandra Shekhar, but, he added, if the situation forces us and nothing concrete comes out, the party would like to rethink. However, he said that at present stage, there is no rethinking.

Asked if he has proposed to the president the name of Mr. Chandra Shekhar for the next prime ministership, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi said that he has proposed nothing. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi said he has immediately called a meeting of the Congress-I parliamentary board to discuss certain questions which the president has asked him. Asked if he is prepared to form a government, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi said: Wait till evening.

Three Terrorists Killed in Punjab, One Arrested

BK0811113090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] In Punjab, three terrorists have been killed and one hard core arrested, following (?stiff) encounters. According to the official spokesman, two terrorists have been killed in Faridkot and one in Jullundur District. Some arms and ammunition have been recovered from the killed terrorists.

Commentary Hopes For Improved Ties With Pakistan

BK0711143890 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Professor Satish Kumar commentary: "The New Pakistan Prime Minister"]

[Excerpts] The election of Mian Nawaz Sharif as the prime minister of Pakistan by the IJI [Islamic Democratic Alliance] parliamentary party marks the beginning of an extremely significant change in the politics of Pakistan. Mr. Nawaz Sharif, chairman of the Punjab section of the Muslim League and chief of the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad, IJI, is rightly regarded as the chief architect of the IJI's massive victory against the Pakistan People's Party-dominated People's Democratic Alliance led by the former prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto. In fact, it was Mr.

Nawaz Sharif who was the moving spirit behind not only the creation of the IJI, a 13-party alliance of right-wing parties and groups, but also a sustained attack by it on the PPP both during its 20-month rule and during the election campaign. [passage omitted]

India has every reason to welcome the election of Mian Nawaz Sharif as the new prime minister of Pakistan. No country could be happier than India on the success of another round of elections held in Pakistan. India would hope, however, that the prime ministership of Mr. Nawaz Sharif, a modern, educated, and forward-looking man would lend realism and statesmanship to Pakistan's attitude toward India irrespective of what his utterances may have been during Ms. Benazir Bhutto's rule or during the election rhetorics. Two of the main components of IJI—the Muslim League and Jamaat-i-Islami—have not been known for any constructive attitude toward India in the past. They have been providing sustenance to hard lines adopted by Pakistan's Army and Inter-Services Intelligence toward India, resulting in massive interference and instigation of terrorism by Pakistan in Punjab and Kashmir for many years. The previous prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, started on a very positive note by promising that she would conduct relations with India within the framework of the Simla Agreement, but she had seemed to resort to a hard line vis-a-vis India mainly to outwit Mr. Nawaz Sharif—the then Punjab chief minister who was her main detractor as regard her policy toward India. But, being himself placed in the position of the prime minister, one would hope Mr. Nawaz Sharif would realize that the trust and confidence reposed in him by the people of Pakistan would be justified only if he works toward genuinely improving relations with India, and in this alone lies the welfare of the people of Pakistan and India, both.

Iran

Commentary Views U.S. Leaders' Visits to Gulf

LD0711164390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1102 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The U.S. secretary of state ended his visit of several countries of the Persian Gulf and Egypt and has gone to Turkey. These visits are taking place at a time when Iraq is trying to use the policy of freeing the hostages to delay any form of attack against her and, so that she may benefit from the potential crack in the ranks of her opponents. This is Baker's second visit to the Middle East since the start of the latest crisis in the Persian Gulf and occupation of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

This current visit, which ends with a meeting with the Soviet foreign minister, is taking place at a time when remarks are being heard about secondary [far'i] solutions to the crisis. It was exactly after the Saudi defense minister's announcement that there were grounds for being optimistic about a political solution to the crisis if parts of Kuwaiti territory were given over to Iraq, that George Bush, U.S. President, decided to send his secretary of state for foreign affairs [to the region] so that he could stress to cooperative Arab governments that the United States is opposed to any kind of secondary solutions that do not involve Iraq's full withdrawal from Kuwait.

Another factor in Baker's trip, according to analysts, was Iraq's play with the hostage card. The [Iraqi] decision to release all the French hostages in Iraq as well as the release of Soviets, British, and then Bulgarian and Japanese hostages, has caused concern to the United States about the possibilities of Iraq being able to create a crack in the ranks of its opponents. U.S. reactions to the release of a number of Western hostages to the effect that this measure has not weakened international steadfastness over the question of Iraqi withdrawal, can be analyzed within this same framework.

Recently and on the eve of Baker's trip, Iraq has come forward with a new peace proposal, the pivotal point of which is the question of Western hostages and the release of all of them if all or several of the UN permanent members guaranteed that they would not conduct a military attack against Iraq. This proposal is very tempting to many Western powers and Japan especially, since the presidents of France and the Soviet Union, in their recent meeting in Paris, insisted on a political solution, and Gorbachev explicitly stated that military action is unacceptable. The nearly identical proposals put forward by France and the Soviet Union with regard to finding an Arab solution to the crisis—even though lacking an appropriate base because Arab leaders know better than others that there are too many differences between them and there are no bases for an inter-Arab understanding—show, all the same, that Paris and Moscow consider that their interests lie in the prevention of a war.

Bearing in mind that none of the solutions so far, including economic sanctions, sea and air blockades and other solutions envisaged in the UN resolution, have been effective in altering Iraqi resolve and that Baghdad counts Kuwait as its 19th province, the possibility of a military attack is being raised more than before.

It is being said that from the climatic standpoint now is the best time for a military attack; and that the necessary coordination at command level has been established between the United States and the Saudis. But such action would probably not put a swift end to the crisis but may last for a long time and bring the region face-to-face with a true inferno.

The U.S. Government is being gradually pressurized by both its European allies and internal public opinion into not opting for war and seeking political and economic solutions to the crisis. Now, it may be that America's warmongering remarks are to frighten Iraq and force it out of Kuwait rather than to prepare the ground for real military action. Finally, one of the aims of James Baker's trip to the region, is to prepare the ground for George

Bush's future visit to several Arab countries. It can at least be said that until the start of Bush's trip and its end, no military clashes are likely to take place.

Further on Visit by Afghan Mujahidin

Meet Velayati

LD0711184390 Tehran Television Services in Persian 1600 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Velayati attended a joint meeting of Afghan mujahidin leaders today.

Sebghatullah Mojadeddi, president of the interim government of Afghanistan; Ahmad Gbylani, the interim government's chief justice; Hojjat ol-Eslam Mortazavi, the spokesman for the Islamic Unity Party; Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur; Mawlawi Rafi' al-Din Mu'azzin; and other mujahidin officials took part in the meeting.

Velayati hopes this meeting, held after a few days of discussions, will provide a positive step toward solving the Afghans' problems and creating security and salvation for the deprived and brave Muslim nation of Afghanistan. Velayati called Islam a chain which can connect the people of Afghanistan who are from various sects and tribes. He said the problems of Afghanistan—some of which resulted from international events and the global arrogance's imposed war against an Islamic country—have caused the biggest epic of its kind and the strongest resistance of a deprived nations. Velayati said that from the beginning Iran has called for the establishment of a nonaligned Islamic government based on the will of the majority of the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

The foreign affairs minister said that even though the final effects of the Kuwaiti crisis cannot be established yet, in the short term it will have negative effects on the problem of Afghanistan. This crisis has given the superpowers a pretext to give priority to issues according to their own interests and to sacrifice the Islamic and Third World countries for those interests.

Concluding, Velayati reaffirmed that elections in Afghanistan should be staged without interference from foreigners. Any action toward solving the problem of Afghanistan should be continuous and comprehensive and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as Afghanistan's Muslim neighbor, wants the victory of Muslims in that country and the rapid return of peace and the reconstruction of that country.

Then Mojadeddi thanked Velayati for holding the joint meeting to unite various Afghan mujahidin parties. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always stressed the unity of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan in order to achieve its legitimate rights. We hope that as before the Islamic Republic of Iran does not deny its moral and political support for the Afghan mujahidin. [passage omitted]

Issue Statement

NC0811110290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] The joint session of the Afghan mujahidin leaders in Tehran concluded with the issuing of a statement on the policy of continued politico-military struggle.

The session was attended by Mr. Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, the president of the interim seven-member coalition government, and other Afghan mujahidin leaders. The statement issued at the end of the session stressed the need to adopt certain appropriate combat tactics to counter the present situation and the need to adopt a political solution to the Afghan issue, while at the same time upholding the mujahidin's military position at this critical juncture.

In this statement the participants termed the present regime in Kabul as an illegal one, unacceptable to the Muslim people of Afghanistan in general, and called on this regime to bow to the will of the people and to delegate power to the actual representatives of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan.

Regarding the present world situation, the statement called for a political solution to the Afghan issue which could provide for the successful attainment of the Afghan nation. All Afghan mujahidin were asked to continue their incessant struggles until they have succeeded in finding an acceptable solution for the establishment of an Islamic government.

Session participants concurred that the need for nationwide elections to decide the destiny of the Afghan nation is the ultimate solution. To facilitate a speedy solution to the Afghan problem, a committee for the assessment and followup of the political problems of Afghanistan is to be set up to find a political solution and to utilize the present levers and the necessary contacts to revive the rights of the Muslim Afghan nation.

In the statement the Afghan mujahidin leaders called on the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, as two neighboring and brotherly Islamic countries to provide the necessary assistance to strengthen this committee, and declared that the great victory of the Islamic Revolution in Afghanistan was the result of the struggles and the unity of action among all sects and nationalities of the Afghan Muslim nation. Those who are making efforts to sow discord are Satan's agents.

Majles Approves Borrowing $17.5 Billion in Loans

Central Bank Governor Comments

LD0611183690 Tehran IRNA in English 1804 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA—The Majlis (Islamic Consultative Assembly) has given the government the go ahead to borrow $17.5 billion from abroad for implementation of development projects, a senior official revealed here Tuesday. "Receiving loans is aimed at implementing national projects but not purchasing consumer goods or arms," Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli, the Central Bank governor said.

"Negotiations have been held with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to this end, and measures will be taken to finance certain projects," Adeli told students of the Foreign Ministry's Foreign Relations College. He said IMF had already volunteered to grant Iran a 25-300 million dollar loan to be repaid in 15 years, for reconstructing quake-devastated areas. Necessary steps towards receiving the loan were to be taken after consultations with the Majlis, he added.

"The government is to make investments worth $120 billion during its five year development plan (launched this year), a small part of which would be sought from abroad," Adeli said. "To overcome the crisis triggered by the inflation, unemployment budget deficit and empty capacity of our factories it was necessary to put the country's economy on a smooth course," he said. "To this end emphasis was laid on stabilizing and modifying the economy." "The output of light and heavy industries has increased by 10 to 360 percent over the past seven months since a plan was enforced to sell foreign exchange at competitive rates," he said.

Arrangements have been made to give people a wider elbow room to contribute to the country's economic and reconstruction efforts, the Central Bank governor said. "More trust should be put in the people," he noted.

Addressing himself to the students, Adeli pointed out "the government is determined to lead the country towards an economic balance in order to provide the deprived and oppressed class with relative welfare."

Radio Commentary

LD0711222990 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Last week two seperate agreements were concluded between Iran and the Soviet Union and Iran and Bulgaria. The agreement reached by Iran and the Soviet Union [word indistinct] the capacity of Isfahan steel mill and the sale of iron ore to Iran.

The agreement reached by Iran and Bulgaria too is related to cooperation in the fields of agriculture, industry, and transportation.

In the meantime during the past week the Islamic Republic of Iran's shipping delegation, while visiting Qatar and Bahrain, held talks with the officials of the said countries on the possibility of establishing shipping lines between Iran and those countries.

The conclusion of agreement between Iran and the Soviet Union goes back to (?longterm) agreements on economic, scientific, and cultural cooperation until the year 2000 which were signed by the two countries in June 1989. Of the agreements which have been concluded between Iran and the Soviet Union since then are within the framework of this agreement. [sentence as heard]

The conclusion of agreements between Iran and the East Bloc countries, including Bulgaria, last week is related to several factors. One of these factors is economic changes in the East Bloc and a change in their economic system. For as a result of this the system of the said countries; foreign trade exchanges have been faced with several changes. In view of the extensive trade relations between Iran and the East Bloc countries the conclusion of new agreements between them seemed necessary.

Another important factor which has been effective in conclusion of new economic agreements between Iran and the East Bloc countries is a decrease in the Soviet oil export to the said states. Further, the agreements in the delivery of oil to these countries by Iraq and Kuwait too have been suspended. This situation naturally has caused the East Bloc countries to be faced with serious shortage in fuel. The Islamic Republic of Iran's capacity as one of the most important oil producing countries in the OPEC has drawn the attention of East Bloc countries, specially that, with the vague future of the Persian Gulf crisis, the continual export of oil by the Persian Gulf neutral states, which are among the most imoprtant oil producers, does not enjoy a sufficient guaranty.

Thus the East Bloc countries are willing to increase their oil import from Iran by concluding new economic agreements. [words indistinct] to Bulgaria by the Iranian agriculture minister last week. Iran is supposed to export one million tons of crude oil to Bulgaria next year.

The most important effective factor in the expansion of economic relations of Iran and the Persian Gulf (?neutral) states is related to the Persian Gulf crisis. After the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and its condemnation by Iran the Persian Gulf neutral states have realized the past record has not affected Iran's stance and that Iran's foreign policy pursues unalterable principles.

These factors, plus another factor which is the failure of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council in preventing the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, have caused the [word indistinct] Persian Gulf neutral states to realize the importance of having extensive political and economic relations with the Isalmic Republic of Iran and to wish to expand their relations with Iran.

Most of the Third World countries too, because of the Persian Gulf crisis and a probability of shortage in oil, have shown willingness to conclude new economic agreements with the Islamic Republic of Iran. For example, [words indistinct] visit to Iran by the Madagascar foreign minister last week in which the country called for the expanison of relations with Iran clearly shows that the recent changes have created conditions which can open a new chapter in the economic relations and other world countries.

Newspaper Editorial

NC0211142090 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 20 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "No Hasty Borrowing"]

[Text] Iran's western relations may not have reached the point to qualify it for large sums of extended financing, but the country's post-war economic policy and low level of foreign debt places it in the risk-worthy class. So we are being told by international bankers and experts aligned with world money markets.

Soon after President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani presented his ambitious five-year economic plan to the Islamic Consultative Assembly last year the stage was set for what officials likened to "Foreign investments, joint ventures, collaboration,..." In order to redress poor economic growth and repair the damages of a destructive eight-year-old war with Iraq, the plan envisaged 17 billion dollars in foreign credits over five years.

This week news broke that the World Bank is expected to lend nearly 300 million dollars to Iran as part of an earthquake reconstruction loan. In June an earthquake hit along the Caspian Sea area. More than 30,000 people died and material losses were fixed above one billion dollars.

As is usual practice, the latest loan story and visits by World Bank specialists to conduct necessary negotiations were not reported by the relevant organizations in Tehran. Irrespective of the source and how developments related to Iran's foreign economic relations are handled by the decision-makers, the Islamic Republic of Iran is on the verge of joining "world credit markets". Some observers claim final agreements have already been reached to this effect. The first World Bank loan to Iran, since the victory of Islamic Revolution in 1979, will be made in the next few weeks.

Borrowing from the West is more often than not viewed with apprehension by a wide sector of Iranian society. Even the less-informed members of our Islamic society do not feel that borrowing will be the solution to the ever-increasing economic plight that follows every war and revolution.

If nothing else, one of the major drawbacks of using foreign money is that it creates a serious lack of self-dependence in managing the country's affairs.

The people in Islamic Iran do realize that nations are no longer economically self-sufficient. All people must engage in international economic transactions and try to supply each other's needs. In the global economic climate a country cannot alone determine its money, trade, communication and other strategies without giving careful attention to regional and international trends. Yet the world continues to be divided in two—the poor, indebted Third World and the rich developed world. And for many developing countries it is foreign debt that looms as the biggest challenge to their scarce financial resources.

In Iran there is little argument about President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's intention to revive the war-devastated and oil-dependent economy. More than a year after he was elected to the republic's highest executive office things have not moved in a totally irrational direction. Economic welfare and supplying the basics tops the administration's current agenda. But for a vast majority, the question is what the conditions will be after the government starts borrowing heavily from the not so friendly Western world?

Outside of one or two oil exporting countries, each and every Third World state is indebted to commercial lenders or governments in the West. The economic performance of most if not all borrowing nations has hardly been satisfactory which has resulted in their inability to respect multi-billion dollar debt commitments. They lag behind in servicing the debts only to be confronted by rising compound interest. Thus governments either increase their internal indebtedness or simply print more money.

Iran was not saved from this course during the war years and the consequences of printing useless money will be with us for the next several years. If by any chance, World Bank funds will be used to target the surplus money supply of former years, it will also lead to galloping inflation, unemployment, economic chaos and possibly political ramifications. The prospects of inviting confusion and amplifying the already fragile economic fabric cannot be ruled out if Iran borrows on the international market without first identifying the specific organs that will oversee the pre-determined economic and industrial tasks and, most importantly, control the credit flow.

The sheer size of the sum involved (17 billion dollars) indicates the severity of crisis that could further burden the nation in case a well-defined formula does not precede the credit sanctions. And given the complexity of the problems afflicting the indebted economies, it may be vital for Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's senior aides to regularly brief the nation on economic plans and decisions that directly affect the present and future of more than 55 million Iranians.

World Court Rejects U.S. Firm's Claim

LD0511160890 Tehran IRNA in English 1516 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov 5, IRNA—The International Tribunal of [the] Hague has unanimously rejected claims of the American Highlands Insurance Company against the islamic Republic of Iran, managing director of Iran's Central Insurance Company Ahmad Geranmayeh announced today.

He said following the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, the U.S. company had filed a claim of 3.72 million dlrs against Iran, which after accumulated interest and legal expenses rose to 6.55 mn dlrs.

Although the contract inked by Highlands with the Iranian Insurance Company before the revolution was no longer valid, the American firm claiming that it was valid up to the year 1980, filed a suit against Iran, Geranmayeh said.

However, the jury unanimously issued the final verdict in favor of the Islamic Republic, he added.

Commentary Supports Regional Defense Pact

LD0611121690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Commentary from the Holy Defense program]

[Excerpts] The crisis emanating from the invasion of Kuwait continues, while all countries throughout the world are following the trend of the events anxiously and apprehensively. What is interesting here is that all the various ways and means envisaged to end the crisis are now being tested simultaneously.

On the one hand the United States, in view of its bullying nature, envisages the solution in the exertion of military pressure on Baghdad, and endeavors to restore the status quo before the invasion of Kuwait through the enforcement of a total military-economic blockade on Iraq, hence the expansion of its exorbitant illegitimate interests in the region.

On the other hand, the international community have embarked on a series of joint efforts against Iraq, via the Security Council. [passage omitted] Finally, the third solution, which is that of the concerted efforts of the regional countries toward the establishment of a potent regional security pact—to act as a guarantee against any kind of danger and aggression—is being seriously examined at present.

However, a brief and fleeting glance at the results of the aforementioned means unmasks these realities. Firstly, the intensification of the crisis in the region—which has occurred precisely as a result of the U.S. military buildup in the region—serves as a patent proof of the U.S. failure to find a solution deemed suitable by the U.S. officials.

As for the enforcement of the international will—which was manifested by the unanimous support given by the majority of the world countries, to the Security Council's decisions—through the means of the Security Council, the results have been different. In fact, this solidarity has inspired fresh hopes in terms of the success of a united global effort aimed at ending the crisis.

In the same way, the joint defensive initiative of the regional countries seen in the remarkable political activities, the meetings and the negotiations carried out by these countries' officials, indicate that the creation of an expert defensive regional pact is today considered a necessity.

The summing up of these facts will soon reveal that the best means of ending the crisis is found in the fulfillment of regional cooperation toward the implementation of the international will, so as to establish security. The upshot of the matter is that the establishment and the maintainance of security can only be achieved by the countries of the region.

Editorial Condemns 'Zionist Schemes'

NC0211153690 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 24 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "A Cancerous Tumor"]

[Text] Violence and tension are growing daily in occupied Palestine in the wake of the ruthless massacre of scores of Palestinians by the Zionist troops in Bayt al-Maqdis [Jerusalem] two weeks ago.

In the latest developments, two Palestinian workers stabbed and wounded two Zionists in the second such attack on Jews inside the occupied territories on Tuesday.

The tumor of Israel has grown cancerous. Keeping the status quo is no longer economical. On the other hand the situation of the Zionist regime should be stabilized on the new geopolitical map of the world, as well as in America's sphere of influence.

In view of the fact that the Islamic upsurge aims at putting an end to the occupation of Bayt al-Maqdis as its main goal, Tel Aviv may lose all its chances of survival should the U.S. act belatedly.

In pursuance of its dirty schemes against the Palestinians, the Zionist regime may be planning to send the Palestinians to Jordan so that no non-Israeli elements would remain in the occupied territories. In Jordan the wretched king could be replaced with some Palestinian element something which the political leaders of Palestine who lack any distinctive character, have been dreaming of. But it certainly would not be an easy task to accomplish. The people of Jordan would put up resistance and the result again would be the massacre of the Palestinians. This would be most pleasing to Israel as well. Reports about mobilization of forces, handling out of arms, etc, is neither for a war against the Jews nor against the U.S. The goal is to shed the blood of the Muslims and the new Palestinian refugees.

Iraq on the other hand might have missed the opportunity for a very big deal. Should Baghdad cooperate in the above-mentioned Israeli plan, it would receive its share in Kuwait. What Iraq can do here would be the toppling of the Jordanian government through the officers it has recruited in the Jordanian army. If this fails, it could even invade Jordan and help stabilize the incoming Palestinians' government. In the course of the war imposed on Iran, Iraq maintained extensive cooperation with Israel. It would pay just any price to become the gendarme of the Persian Gulf.

Today's foreign policy of the U.S. as a staunch supporter of the Zionist regime, consists of two aims: To contain Europe and to contain Islam.

The turn of events show that the latter goal has the priority and for this very reason the Muslim community should be on the watch for conspiracies.

Commentary Views Amal-Hizballah Pact

LD0111142690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1106 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Lebanon's Hizballah and the Amal Movement have issued a statement in which they declared a cease-fire in the Iqlim al-Tuffah region in southern Lebanon and emphasized that they will try to eliminate for good their differences in all fields. The declared cease-fire came into operation at 0130 yesterday morning [as heard]. As part of this arrangement, the food blockade of the Iqlim al-Tuffah region has been lifted and prisoners taken on both sides will be exchanged. On the basis of this agreement the water supply network of the Iqlim al-Tuffah region is also due to be reconstructed.

These measures, which have been described as the basis for both sides to reach a final and complete agreement, were a result of the diplomatic efforts of our country and were effected after a series of bilateral meetings and talks between the Amal Movement and Hizballah representatives under the auspices of Iran and Syria.

Even though numerous accords and cease-fires between the two sides in Iqlim al-Tuffah have failed up to now, and the region has been witness to bloody confrontations, still, many political experts are hoping that—thanks to the latest developments in Lebanon and the region—the new pact between the two sides may last and may be fully implemented.

At present, in the wake of partial agreements between local groups on the one hand and foreign powers influential in Lebanon on the other, that country is preparing itself to enter an era of partial tranquillity. With the establishment of a Great Beirut free of paramilitary forces and militia controlled armaments, the grounds for free political activities have been prepared. It is natural that the unity and solidarity of Islamic forces—with the resistant Shiite forces as the nucleus—should be manifest as an important and immediate necessity.

On the eve of the formation of the enlarged cabinet of Lebanon, the expected participation of strong political and military forces in government, and an increase in the number of deputies, as well as the allocation of some representative seats to these groups, it becomes more important for the Islamic and Shiite ranks to be united. Hizballah—as the principal nucleus of resistant Islamic forces in Lebanon—very well understands the importance of the unity of Islamic forces, under which sensitive conditions, for the achievement of political ends and also for the attainment of a legal and effective role for the Islamic forces in the affairs of that country. It also believes that it is in the wake of the strong political presence of the Islamic forces that resistance against the Zionist enemy can be further strengthened.

Also, the Amal Movement, which claims to restore the impaired social and political rights of Lebanon's Shiites, needs Hizballah's support, specially when military clashes between the two Shiite groups in Beirut and south Lebanon have so far weakened the Shiites of that country.

What increases hopes for the durability of the new agreement between the two parties is the imminent visit of Mr. Hasan Habibi, vice president, and Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, to Syria. It is said that relations between Amal and Hizballah is one of the topics that will be discussed between Iran's high-ranking delegation and Syrian officials. Bearing in mind the importance of the status and role of Islamic forces, notably the role of the Shiite community of Lebanon, in the political arena of that country, the pivotal nature of the struggle against the zionist regime, which continues to occupy parts of Lebanon, is of fundamental importance.

It is hoped that understanding and cooperation between Amal and Hizballah will open the path for Muslims to gain more power in Lebanon and consolidate the struggle against the regime occupying Jerusalem.

Editorial Criticizes 'Indulgence' Toward U.S.

PM0511162490 Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian 31 Oct p 2

[Editorial by political editor]

[Text] In this country at present we can see views and actions on the part of individuals and society's political currents that unfortunately do not embody the main quality of Muslim forces dedicated to the revolution, namely, to display indulgence and friendship toward our own people and animosity toward the enemy. In some cases we have even seen people being harsh and illogical in his dealings with forces who believe in the revolution and the leadership, yet adopting an indulgent, flattering, and respectful position when expressing views on the revolution's principal main enemy. This is the exact opposite of what the Koran recommends to Muslims.

Mr. Raja'i Khorasani, the people's majles deputy from Tehran is one of the people who has unfortunately acted in this way. Despite his indulgent remarks on U.S. and Saudi policies with regard to domestic issues such as what we have seen concerning the election to the Council of Exports in the past few days, he has acted sharply, ignoring acceptable standards. He made the excuse that the majority of the Majles wanted to ignore the Constitution and the guidelines of the leader, defending his actions and those of his friends in closing the Majles open session on 7 October 1990. He claimed that in order to deny others the opportunity, it was a duty not to take part in the Majles session. Every intelligent person knows that if this manner of dealing with internal issues—cleaning the surface of the issue at hand instead of trying to solve the problems at the root—becomes a habit, it could be exploited by a small minority to postpone the decisions of the majority. The desired method in such a case would be for people to attend the session, to hold discussions and exchange views; and in any case there must be adherence to the country's legal procedures. Otherwise any kind of excuse which entails ignoring the laws of the land will have unpleasant consequences which will also affect others. Can others claim to be honest when they claim that the reason why they did not pay too much attention to the Experts' elections was because of the existing laws, whereas the real reasons was because their friends had been removed? If they can claim to be honest in this, then Mr. Raja'i will also be right. This same Mr. Raja'i became so excited when talking about the U.S. vote condemning Israel—which was made for ulterior motives—that he started praising the United States. He naively stated that this was a major turning point in U.S. foreign policy and went as far as to ask that U.S. interests be separated from Israeli interests! Mr. Raja'i Khorasani ignored the United States' character and its regional policies, and claimed that it was creating a new and more constructive opening in the Middle East!

One look at these positions and comparison with his actions with regard to the various factions inside the country reveal the painful truth that people like him are treating our own kind and the friends of the revolution—even if the may have made mistakes in their announcement of their policies and views—in a manner that should be reserved for enemies. Following single step by the United States toward our own position, for some reason they consider this important enough to indicate that the United States really has created a new opening in its Middle East policies. It is not unlikely that with one or two more similar steps it would fall into the category of the revolution's friends—as far as Mr. Raja'i is concerned!

We recommend to all those who claim to be following the imam's line and all those devoted to the ideals of the revolution not to confuse friend and foe in announcing their views or in their actions. They should not say to the enemy what they should say to friend and they should not put our own kind in the place of foreigners.

Habibi Comments on Syria Visit

LD0611183190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Remarks by Iranian First Vice-President Hasan Habibi in response to a question by an unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 6 November—recorded]

[Text] [video shows correspondent flanked by Habibi and Foreign Minister Velayati on their return from Syria to Tehran and flashbacks of Habibi and Velayati in Syria during their recent tour]

[Correspondent] Dr. Habibi, please tell us about your visit to Syria and the meetings you held with the authorities of that country and about the results of the visit. What was the general focus of the talks?

[Habibi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thanks be to the Lord of the Two Worlds. As you know, during the visit to Tehran of His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, the president of the Republic of Syria, and the accompanying team, it was decided to set up a high council consisting of the vice presidents of the two republics as well as the foreign ministers of the two countries to supervise issues of mutual interest. Naturally, issues of mutual interest consist of, first, the issue of bilateral ties and secondly the ongoing issues of the region. Obviously, there are issues related to the policies of various other countries with regard to the issue of the region which could and must be discussed in the high council.

It was decided to have these visits from time to time—alternately in Tehran and Damascus. The first of these visits was the one which we made to Damascus. On the basis of our original decision, we had to have an agenda which, during our visit, consisted of the final reading and approval of the internal rules governing the workings and meetings of the high council, as well as issues related to bilateral ties and issues related to the region and the Persian Gulf crisis; and finally issues in Lebanon which are of interest to both countries.

In our visit we had three rather long meetings, which were the meetings of the high council and also we had a rather lengthy meeting with His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, the honorable president of Syria. Two working groups were formed: One was for drafting the rules and regulations governing conduct of the meetings of High Council and another working group headed by the two honorable foreign ministers. That meeting will [as heard] attend to issues and points incorporated in the accord between Amal and Hizballah.

In discussions regarding the issues related to the region, we again surveyed the same points which were topics of discussion in Tehran. We arrived at the conclusion that the stances of the two countries continue to be identical. Iran and Syria both agreed that no changes must be made to the geography of the region, Iraq must hand over the whole of Kuwaiti territory, she must abandon her occupation, and she must withdraw to the internationally recognized frontiers.

Naturally, that aggression is condemned; the presence of alien forces in the Persian Gulf is condemned. Such a presence deals irreparable blows to the security and tranquility of the region. In any case, the region must itself find the necessary solution to that problem.

Therefore, the same viewpoints, stances, and positions which were adopted during the Tehran visit were emphasized and discussed. Regarding the future, it was decided that any time there are changes in the situations and conditions of the region, we would have some sessions in the form of extraordinary sessions. The resolution received final approval—the resolution of the summit meeting [Ainnameh-ye in hey'at-e 'ali]—in which provisions have been made for ordinary and extraordinary sessions. The extraordinary sessions would deal with urgent issues which are of interest to the two sides. Anytime there is a change in the region which requires discussion and consultation between the two sides, that session will be held.

Regarding bilateral relations, due to the extensive nature of discussions and affairs which we had, we only talked about some general points. It was decided to try to study and implement the agreements and accords which were signed in Tehran. Most probably, one of the ministers of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will pay a visit to Damascus in the near future, and vice versa; and they will bring those agreements to a conclusion and will eliminate any problems or obstacles which may arise.

Regarding the differences which existed between Amal and Hizballah—because fortunately as the result of the agreement which has been reached there will no longer be such differences in the future—one main issue and one basic principle was accepted by both sides; and fortunately agreement was reached by the two sides, Amal and Hizballah; namely, that under present conditions it is a basic principle and a necessity that the Muslims should be united with one another, that they will give up their minor or major differences, and that they will direct all their capabilities and all their forces toward struggle against the common enemy, which at the moment for the Muslims, it is Israel which has usurped Palestine.

Particularly in Lebanon, and in South Lebanon, which has a special significance, it is a pity and an injustice to the people that these existing forces and capabilities and this desire and enthusiasm which exists in serving Islam should be spent in wrong directions and, God forbid, others may abuse these differences. This was a main principle, and the fact that the Islamic forces in the region should remain in place and in strength.

Hizballah is one of the forces which should continue to exist and to function. At the same time, there should not be any differences among Muslim forces. This was another principle.

Certain discussions had already taken place among the brothers. They got close to some agreements. In the meetings that we had, we had discussions with both sides. There were also some discussions between the Iranian and Syrian sides. Fortunately, some common points were found. Those common points were discussed and studied by the four sides: the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Syria, Amal, and Hizballah. Those main points were discussed and studied in detail, the details of those issues were clarified and, fortunately, yesterday both sides [Amal and Hizballah] reached a clear and definite conclusion.

Both sides officially announced their viewpoints and said that, God willing, from now on they will no longer have any differences; and if in certain issues there was need for discussion, debate, and clarification of the agreement, they have placed it under the mediation of Syria and Iran. God willing, in view of this issue and the supervision which will be continued in the affairs, the Muslim forces who clashed in South Lebanon and in Beirut, God willing, will have no other clashes from now on. We hope that in the same way that they have pleased everyone by sorting out their differences, God will also be well-pleased with them, with us, and with all.

Soviet Envoy's Message Marks Revolution

LD0711174690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1450 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Message from Vladimir Gudev, USSR ambassador to Iran, to the Iranian people on the 73d anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution; on 7 November; place not given; recorded in Russian with superimposed Persian translation]

[Text] Good evening, dear viewers. I am very pleased that I have been given the opportunity to address you, the people of the neighboring and friendly country of Iran, on the occasion of the USSR national celebrations, the 73d anniverssary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

At the moment, fundamental and decisive changes are taking place in all aspects of life in my country. The main aim of the greatest part of these changes is the establishment of a truly democratic and legalistic [hoquqmand in Persian] government based on general human values and the people's desire for progress, advancement, freedom, and social justice. New structures are being formed, the rule of the people is being strengthened, political participation is being expanded, and profound economic reforms are being implemented.

The concept of a Soviet federation is finding a completely new meaning. The mutual relations between the government and religion are being improved and the ecological culture of the society is growing and expanding.

At the same time perestroyka is not being implemented without difficulties and disagreements especially in the economic sphere where the transitional stage from a command mechanism to relations based on a free market is being painfully endured. The same is true about interethnic relations.

Strengthening the principles of the new political thinking and the transition from the cold war and confrontation toward a period of understanding and peaceful cooperation are the most remarkable gains of our perestroyka. It is also important to note that although acute regional conflicts are unfortunately still poisoning the political climate of our globe, progress toward their eradication is gaining greater momentum.

We are pleased that positive changes in Soviet-Iranian relations are growing deeper and expanding, and their material and human fabric is being strengthened. This can be seen both in bilateral political dialogue on a wide spectrum of international and regional issues, as well as in our relations in the economic, commercial, cultural, and sports spheres. The establishment of direct contacts between the Islamic Republic of Iran and neighboring Soviet republics, as well as with the Russian Federation, is creating a new factor in the conflicts [monaqeshat in Persian] between our countries.

Dear Iranian friends, I am quite convinced that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union have very reassuring outlooks for bilateral relations. This depends on us and on you so that these relations will be turned into relations on the basis of which our children and subsequent generations will always live in an atmosphere of friendship, peace, and good-neighborliness.

Dear viewers, in concluding please allow me from the depth of my heart to wish success, health, and prosperity for you and for the entire Iranian nation. I am grateful for the attention of the viewers. [video shows Gudev seated at a desk speaking]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives Foreign Envoys

LD0711214490 Tehran IRNA in English
1531 GMT 7 Nov 90

[All names as received]

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—The newly-appointed ambassadors of Ireland, India and Malaysia submitted their credentials to president Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani respectively on Wednesday.

Irish Ambassador John Francis Cogen told the president that his country was well aware of the Islamic Republic's significant role in the world and of the importance of expanding Tehran-Dublin relations.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said Iranian officials were ready to expand mutual ties with Ireland in various fields.

In his meeting with the president, Mohamad Hamid Ansari who is to head the Indian Diplomatic mission to Tehran conveyed the warm greetings of the Indian president, premier and nation to Rafsanjani. He also announced New Delhi's preparedness to promote its ties with Iran.

Rafsanjani underscored the need to expand Irano-Indian relations in areas of mutual interest.

Malaysian Ambassador Mohammad az-Zahari Bin Karim called for strengthening of ties between Tehran and Kuala Lumpur which was welcomed by President Rafsanjani.

Malagasy Delegation Departs; Velayati Comments

NC0211090390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] The Malagasy Foreign Minister Mr. Bemananjara; Mr. Badhroudine, the minister of sports, population, and tourism [title as received]; and Mrs. Rabesahala, the minister of revolutionary art and culture of Madagascar, who had been visiting Iran at the head of a delegation of Malagasy officials, left Tehran this morning. They were seen off by Messrs Velayati, foreign minister, and Khatami, the minister for culture and Islamic guidance.

According to our correspondent, the Malagasy foreign minister, in an interview at Mehrabad Airport, termed the outcome of the visit positive and said: The contents of the July 1988 memorandum of understanding which provides a framework for comprehensive cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Madagascar, especially in the fields of culture, economics, and fisheries, as well as in social fields including sports, were reviewed. Certain agreements were reached in the broadening and strengthening of these ties. He added: In the course of this visit, talks were held on South-South cooperation.

Mr. Velayati also explained some details of this to our correspondent, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] Mr. Velayati, the Democratic Republic of Madagascar's ministers of foreign affairs, culture, and sports were in our country during the past few days. I ask you to tell us about the results obtained by Iran and Madagascar on the conclusion of the ministers' visit.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The country of Madagascar is one of the important African countries, which has a long-standing record of a struggle against colonialism. In the past few years, relations were established between our two countries. We opened our embassy in Madagascar, and delegations have been exchanged between the two countries ever since.

The Malagasy foreign minister visited Iran for the second time. The initial political rapport attained was followed by concurrence in other fields, including the fields of culture, social affairs, sports, and recently in commerce as well. Talks were held between the Iranian and Malagasy counterparts. Certain measures were taken, and it has been agreed that our commerce minister will visit Madagascar shortly.

Madagascar's agricultural products and some of their mineral products are really remarkable. They also have some needs which we can fill. There is excellent scope in Madagascar for the activity of our Construction Jihad, and there is also immense potential there for investment by our Martyrs' Foundation.

In other words, multilateral cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Democratic Republic of Madagascar has been facilitated. We feel that this broadening of relations is in accordance with the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy of expanding relations with the Third World countries, especially African countries. There are numerous possibilities in African countries. First of all, these have to be explored by our colleagues and the country's executive officials. Fortunately, some suitable measures have been taken in this regard, which will assist in broadening our mutual cooperation in practice.

Cultural exchanges with the African countries can be extensive. Some have already taken place, but there is still immense scope for expanding cultural cooperation. Mr. Khatami, the esteemed minister for Islamic guidance, recently visited some African countries, and soon the Construction Jihad minister will visit African countries to stress that we have moved forward after preliminary political consensus toward the expansion of cooperation in all the other fields. [end recording]

Paper Cites Gulf Crisis Threat to Oil

LD0711100690 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—A morning daily Wednesday advised allied forces in the Persian Gulf, led by Washington, that resorting to war is not a wise decision for ousting Saddam Husayn from Kuwait.

'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' writes in an editorial that Iraqis are using every means, including petroleum, to deter any foreign forces' future assault.

It pointed to the reports coming out of Kuwait that Iraq has wired Kuwait's four oil refineries with explosives, as well as other petroleum installations, pipelines and pumping stations.

"The move appear to be part of the strategy of Iraqi commanders to devastate Kuwait's economic base in event of an all out attack by the U.S. troops," said the daily.

In addition, noted the article, in order to delay an amphibious assault by the U.S. marines via Kuwait's shoreline, several oil tankers loaded with crude and bombs reportedly were anchored by the Iraqis [word indistinct] Kuwait's strategically important beaches.

In case of an assault, predicted the daily, the tankers will be blown up and thus millions of tons of burning crude will spill throughout Kuwait's coastal waters and across the Persian Gulf.

Moreover, it said, Iraqi missiles and fighter planes are capable of reaching and hitting Saudi Arabia's inland and offshore oil wells and installations.

"Thus the most unprecedented oil shock to be followed by an environmental catastrophe is set to shake the region and the world," the daily added.

The situation would become even more chaotic if the U.S. Air Force in retaliation bombs Iraqi oil installations in which case two of the major OPEC oil producers, Kuwait and Iraq, will go out of production for an unknown period of time.

"Therefore the means for a peaceful solution to the current crisis must be further explored," concluded the daily.

Petrochemical Contract Signed With Japanese Firm

LD0711221490 Tehran IRNA in English 1458 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 7, IRNA—Missho Iwai company is to sell seven billion yen ($52.2 million) worth of equipment to Iran's petrochemical complex at Imam Khomeyni port city.

Under a contract signed with Iran's national petrochemical company the Japanese firm has undertaken to replace all components and parts of the complex destroyed during the Iraq-Iran war.

The Iranian petrochemical complex was initially a joint Iran-Japan project abandoned due to the 1980-88 war between Iraq and Iran.

Following withdrawal of the Japanese party, Mitsui Company, from the project last year, the Islamic Republic decided to purchase its required equipment from Missho Firm which was engaged in another petrochemical project in Iran in 1989.

Missho Iwai and a number of other Japanese companies are set to grant a $200-300 million in credit to Iran in return for liquified gas.

Students Seek Release of Student in Britain

LD0711221790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] The 25th annual congress of Islamic societies of students in Europe came to an end in Germany by issuing a resolution. In this resolution the students reiterated their allegiance to the esteemed leader [Khamene'i] and described any move which might ultimately lead to the weakening of the holy status of the leader as a clear deviation from the pure Muhammadan Islam and contrary to the aspiration of the late imam [Khomeyni].

The resolution also condemns the crimes of the regime occupying Jerusalem in the massacre of Muslims and the inhuman behavior of the British police against Iranian students, and calls for the release of Mehrdad Kowkabi [jailed in Britain].

The congress was held in Germany from 1-4 November.

Opposition Leader Comments on Party, Prospects

LD0711224690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Interview with Bijan Hekmat, leader of the National Republican Party of Iran; date and place not given—published in RAH-E AZADI, organ of the People's Democratic Party of Iran—read by announcer]

[Text] question: The recent session of the National Republican Party of Iran could not end with the required outcome. What is your analysis of the session?

Answer: The public session was held during the early part of May within the framework of the annual meeting [of the party]. The discussions that took place in the session did not solve the question of reaching a broad understanding for the political policies of the party. We have a political program that was agreed last year during the [word indistinct] meeting. Furthermore, in our open letter addressing political forces, we have explained our general policies.

In the recent session, the policy of cooperation with opposition forces was discussed and there were differences of opinion on this matter. The decision was therefore delayed, and after one or two necessary seminars and further discussions another session will be held.

Question: What were the major differences of opinion on cooperation with the opposition?

Answer: These differences of opinion have been reflected in our publication. In may opinion, the major discussion is whether we are to be only a supporting force for the political activists inside [Iran] or can we, as an independent organization, coordinate [our activities] with the internal forces, and can we have unity in action and cooperation with other political organizations outside the country?

Question: Which policy did you support?

Answer: I support the second outlook. I think that we can coordinate with the [activists] inside under the general structure of the policy of the organization and at the same time have joint activities with the different political forces.

Question: Which are these groups?

Answer: On one side they are the traditional forces of the left that have changed their past views. Today we can see democratic tendencies in these groups at various levels. Among these groups we can specifically name the People's Democratic Party of Iran, the Organization of Iranian People's Fada'yan, and the Majority Organization [of Iranian People's Fada'yan] The Democratic Party of Kordestan, as a regional party, has its own special place. By accepting democratic socialism, it has taken an important step toward reaching understanding with different political forces.

On the other hand, the National Resistance Movement, considering the makeup of the majority of its members, can be counted as one of the democratic forces of society. Concerning this force, there are major political differences, including unity with monarchists in the past and nonacceptance of the constitutional law, which have blocked our closeness with them so far.

Question: Is there a tendency that does not agree with cooperation with other opposition forces?

Answer: Yes. They believe that the changes that have occured in the forces of the left are still surface developments that have specifically taken place due to the changes in the leadership of the CPSU. Therefore, democratic changes in these forces have not been completed and we must take care in our dealings with these organizations.

Question: From your point of view, what is the position of the National Republican forces among the political forces of Iran? For example, do you recognize yourself as a force on the left?

Answer: the response to this question depends on an analysis of the meaning of right and left in our society and throughout the world. If you know the forces of the left as those that extensively support democracy and human rights and those that recognize solidarity and social justice as the guarantors of the well-being of individuals in society, then we can be counted as one of the forces of the left in society. This meaning of the left has not always existed in Iran.

Question: What is your view of the rulers of Iran? On what basis and on [word indistinct] of the fundamental nature of the regime do you call for free elections?

Answer: If I have any experience in politics, it is that we must not indulge in fundamental naturism. When we talk of the fundamental nature, we have the unalterable section of a phenomenon in mind. Regimes and political forces are constantly changing their fundamental nature.

From Latin America to the Philippines, and from Korea to Pakistan, the experience of passing from dictatorship to democracy has shown that the struggle of the people, the change in the international atmosphere, and the developments in the leanings of some regimes can pave the way for the establishment of democracy.

It used to be said that these regimes were basically [word indistinct] dictatorships and that the Eastern dictatorship systems cannot change peacefully through the cooperation of certain sectors from within communist parties. We saw that these views were not true. In Iran too, the Velayat-e faqih regime was based on one character and the model of the export of the Islamic revolution. With the death of the "wise" leader [Khomeyni] and the defeat of the vicious expansion of the revolution, the political make up of the regime no longer matches power [word indistinct] in Iran. The need for economic reconstruction and international cooperation has forced many of the regime's followers to fundamentaly reevaluate [their policies]. Naturally, without the people's struggles, this reevaluation will not take place. Our policy must be to force those supporters of the regime who realize that their policies have reached a dead end to accept the democratic coexistence of all political thoughts of society.

Question: During the past decade, the regime has refused any form of cooperation. It has violently suppressed all opposition forces. At the same time, there is no sign to show such a leaning [within the regime]. In other countries the opposition has changed its aims when they have seen changes in the regime.

Answer: This is true. But we must remember that this regime was the outcome of the revolution and had the support of the masses. Today, with defeats one after the other, whether in the expansion of the revolution or in the economic sphere, this regime no longer enjoys the backing that it used to have. The leaders of the regime, especially its hard-liners, are no longer able to mobilize the people with radical slogans. The defeat in the demonstrations marking the anniversary of the take over of the U.S. Embassy and the limited attendance of the people on the anniversary of Khomeyni's death, have clearly shown that the regime can no longer mobilize [the masses] as before. Today the leaders of the Islamic republic are in a positon of weakness. The recent attack of the regime against the freedom-lovers inside the country does not show their power, it illustrates the fear that they have of the extension of the movement for freedom. This reality is known to many supporters of the regime. Without doubt, their internal differences will increase and we must try to push those supporters of the regime who have seen the failure of their policies to accept democratic coexistence, with a [word indistinct] policy that does not seek revenge. This is a long-term and strategic policy. We cannot change it with the violent reactions of the regime.

Question: Since all the factions in the regime agree on guarding the Islamic regime and since acceptance of this thesis will, in practice, mean the end of the oppresive rule of the Islamic republic, what is the likelihood of the presence of such a tendency among the rulers of Iran? Is not the reaction of all the factions of the regime against 90 [supporters of the Freedom Movement] not enough?

Answer: Naturally, they prefer the continuation of Islamic rule and the continuation of clerical oppression. But today, they see many of the realities surrounding them. They are faced with the choice of elimination from society as a political force or acceptance of coexistence and remaining, at least, a political force with their own policies and identify in society. Only the struggle of the people will make them choose coexistence with different thoughts.

Tehran Paper Warns Against Bickering in Majles

NC0511212690 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 17 Oct 90

[Political commentary: "Limits"]

[Text] In the lexicon of the revolution, criticism and freedom both recognize certain boundaries, and exceeding these boundaries at any time, by any one, for whatever reason, is an intolerable act.

Nowadays, certain elements from the two political factions active on the country's political scene are at one another's throats with their tongues and pens, as if there are no limits or sanctities. To them it seems as if there are no legal injunctions to limit their written and verbal attacks.

Even if there were no legal injunctions, what has happened to the judgment of wisdom? Do not saner counsels dictate that we should not make our principles and foundations questionable for personal or party interests? Should we not rein in our lust for personal attacks and the turbulent ink in our pens, at least at some point?

One who uses the free rostrum of the majles to make the rebellious steed of his tongue gallop ruthlessly on the highest peaks of the system and the revolution and who does not consider any limits or boundaries sacred should realize that we cannot defend the "crystal clear and noble political flow of the Islamic Republic" in this manner. In fact, if such behavior continues, this system will cease to exist, whether it is crystal clear or not, and there will be nothing left to trample ruthlessly!

One who permits the reins of his pen to submit to his personal desires so that he may attack, without any regard for limits of the sharia or of commonsense and wisdom, all those with whom he does not see eye to eye and those who level accusations against him and defame him should realize that if such behavior continues, tomorrow there will be no one to wield the pen, and no one against whom, or in favor of whom, to wield it!

Have we ever paused to ponder that one day our tongues were tied and what a heavy price we paid for the freedom to open them? How much blood had to be shed on the ground so that these pens, in which the ink had remained dried for centuries, should be able to write "In the name of God"? In view of the tactics of the two politically active factions, can they feel anything but shame before the martyrs and the imam of the martyrs?

It is time to wake up and cogitate on this point: To whose benefit is this violation of boundaries, and does this not create the same fear that the imam had when he said, "I fear the opposition of factions in our true Muslim revolution?"

In conclusion, criticism is the right of people, and there is no objection in this regard, but we should be vigilant because our people have great regard for our hallowed values. If they see them in danger of being trampled upon, they will not not tolerate any such behavior, regardless of who or where it comes from. Those who have no regard for the people should fear God, as there is a limit to divine patience. Woe to the day when retribution from God may snatch the great bounty of the sovereignty of Islam from us because of our ingratitude. God forbid!

Cabinet Meeting Hears Economic Reports

LD0711224190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Excerpt] The cabinet held a session on Wednesday afternoon. The cabinet ministers expressed sadness over the heart-rending earthquake at Darab in Fars Province and expressed condolences to the families of the tragedy, which caused many casualties. It was decided by the cabinet that responsible organizations should take the necessary quick action in order to provide aid and meet other needs of the region. The cabinet also approved 1 billion rials of credit to provide immediate aid to the victims of the quake in the Darab region.

First Vice-President Mr. Habibi and Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati, who visited Syria to take part in the session of the high-ranking delegation to discuss Iranian-Syrian ties, reported to the cabinet on the outline of their talks and decisions and the outcome of that session.

Mr. 'Adeli, governor of the Central Bank, submitted to the cabinet a report on the country's economic situation during the past seven months. According to the report, compared with the same period last year, the country's industrial production showed increases of 20 to 50 percent among 73 of 88 types of industrial goods. Heavy industry output showed increases of between 36 and 356 [as heard] percent.

According to the same report, in the past seven months the budget deficiency was reduced by as much as 33.1 percent, the growth in the cash flow was reduced from 11 percent to 8.4 percent, and the inflation rate dropped from 24 percent to 5.1 percent compared with the same period last year. Among these reductions, the decline in the government's budget deficiency by 33.1 percent is outstanding.

The report on the country's economic situation in the past seven months also shows an increase in the government's general revenue by as much as 81.8 percent and a rise of 86.3 percent in development spending, which is an indication of the government's concentration on allocation of funds for development.

The report of the Central Bank's governor submitted to the cabinet shows an increase of 11.3 percent in the volume of savings in banks throughout the country, indicating an increase in public confidence. [passage omitted]

Mobilization Chief Seeks 20-Million-Strong Army

LD0511183790 Tehran IRNA in English 1556 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Isfahan, Nov. 5 IRNA—Commander of Basij [Moblization] Resistance Force 'Ali Reza Afshar today emphsized the need for organizing a 20-million army as proposed by the late Imam Khomeyni.

"The Islamic revolution will have to make every sort of investment for forming a 20-million-man army of trained volunteers (basij) to prevent its departing from its true course into the fold of the West or East," he added.

A 20,000-force of regular members of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) are to be employed at the Basij Resistance Force, said Afshar.

He said the hizbollah of Iran needs a perfect organization and structuring in order that the goals and aspirations of the Islamic revolution may be safeguarded.

*Army Pilots Reportedly Die of Torture

91AS0116C London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] At Evin Prison, the Islamic Republic regime tortured to death two recently arrested army helicopter pilots named Captain Jamshid Khosravi and Major Mehdi Mohbi. The Darafsh-e Kaviyani Organization, which recently revealed this, announced: In the last few days for unknown reasons the Islamic Republic regime has arrested and imprisoned a number of air force pilots, 15 army paratrooper officers and non-commissioned officers, and four revolutionary guard helicopter pilots. Apparently those arrested were tried and sentenced to death in a desert court. The verdict has been sent to Khamene'i for confirmation. The agent exposing these officers and non-commissioned officers is a lieutenant named Farhi, who was promoted to first lieutenant for his service to the Islamic Republic, and also received a reward of 500,000 tomans and a house.

*Turkish Trailer Trucks Used for Oil Transport

91AS0083V London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] The severe shortage of most petroleum products in various parts of the country and the approaching cold weather have persuaded the Ministry of Roads and Transportation and the National Iranian Oil Company to sign a contract to use Turkish oil trailer trucks to ship petroleum products. The Turkish International Shipping Association announced recently that the Islamic Republic, in signing a six-month contract with Turkey, has committed this country to make available to the Islamic Republic a number of oil and fuel trucks. In the next six months these trailer trucks, to be driven by Turkish drivers, will deliver petroleum products and other fuels to cities and villages throughout the country. The chief of the Turkish International Shipping Association said the value of the contract signed between this country and the Islamic Republic is $30 million, and he added that based on the agreements made in the framework of this contract, in early November of this year 3,000 Turkish fuel trucks will be responsible for distributing and shipping the Islamic Republic's petroleum products. Some economic observers believe that the use of Turkish trailer trucks both shows the weakness of the Ministry of Petroleum's overland shipping vessels, and that on the eve of the cold weather season most of the nation's rural areas are without fuel.

An Iranian merchant told KEYHAN's reporter that there is a strong possibility that these trailer trucks will also be used to haul goods to Iraq, and it is rumored that the Turkish trailer trucks will have the job of bringing Iraqi oil into Iran and also exporting it to various points.

*IRI To Invest in Malaysian Refinery

91AS0083T London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] An oil consortium, whose investors include oil companies from the Islamic Republic, Indonesia, and Malaysia, plans to build an oil refinery in Malaysia that will refine 100,000 barrels of Iran's crude oil daily and put it on the international market. The report that this refinery might be built was published recently in the monthly OPEC bulletin, published in Vienna. In part of its report, this bulletin wrote that the capital needed to build the 100,000-barrel refinery is about $1.2 billion, and that the three participating companies, the Islamic Republic, Indonesia, and Malaysia, will provide it. The OPEC bulletin, quoting a Malaysian oil official, wrote that the oil refinery in question will be built on a 437-hectare site in the Malaysian state of Kedah, and will create 12,000 jobs.

OPEC officials announced recently that the Islamic Republic will provide the oil needed for refining at the Malaysia refinery.

*'Asgar-Owladi Elected Tehran Deputy

91AS0083O London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] Concurrent with the election of the Assembly of Experts, in five parts of the country mid-term Majles elections were also held.

In these elections, Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi, former minister of commerce from the Hojjatiyeh group, was elected Tehran deputy.

In addition to Tehran, mid-term elections were also held in Shahr-e Rey, Shemiran, Kordkuy, and Torkman-Sahra, but in Esfahan the Council of Guardians stopped the mid-term elections because of the Majles Election Council's failure to observe the Election Law, and did not allow them to be held.

*Efforts To Create Common Muslim Market

91AS0116H London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] To increase its non-petroleum exports and meet the quantitative export goals set in the five-year development plan, the Islamic Republic is supporting the creation of a common Muslim market and hopes to persuade the Muslim nations as much as possible to do their trading in the framework of a common Muslim market in a regional form, instead of buying what they need from the industrialized Western nations. The Islamic Republic's representative at the Istanbul Economic Conference, which was recently held in this city, explained the main goals in forming a common Muslim market and said the main reason for creating such a market is to reduce customs duties between Islamic nations and to eliminate all the customs obstacles between these nations. The Islamic Republic's representative told reporters: In view of the commercial goals in the Islamic Republic's first five-year development plan, in which more than $12 billion is anticipated in non-petroleum exports, the Islamic Republic's economic delegation at the Istanbul Economic Conference tried to get a plan approved as soon as possible to form a common Muslim market, to be able to use it as a market to increase the volume of Iran's exports.

The Islamic Republic's representative discussed the rapid change in the international economy, and he considered the implementation of an economic exchange pact among Muslim nations to be beneficial to these nations. He explained that if the Islamic nations do not implement provisions like this to make their economies prosper, it is possible that the changes in the world economy, especially the appearance of "the unified European economy of 1992," would have a negative affect on their economies.

*Khalkhali, Emami-Kashani Named Ayatollahs

91AS0116F London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] The newspaper ABRAR has called Sadeq Khalkhali "Ayatollah" and Friday this week for the first time the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC RADIO referred to Hojjat ol-Eslam Emami-Kashani as an Ayatollah.

The term "Ayatollah" was applied to Emami-Kashani in a news broadcast on this week's prayer service, which he led. Recently (two days after the elections for the Assembly of Experts), a report was broadcast of Hojjat ol-Eslam Emami-Kashani being beaten at Tehran's Sepahsalar Mosque.

However, the title "Ayatollah" for Sheikh Sadeq Khalkhali, whose standing as a person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence was rejected by the Council of Guardians, was printed in large letters above the text of "Khalkhali's Letter to the Newspaper RESALAT" on page three, issue 562 of the newspaper ABRAR.

Sheikh Sadeq Khalkhali wrote and sent this letter to RESALAT in answer to protests from some Majles deputies who wanted to know where Sheikh Sadeq Khalkhali got his 70 million toman house, but RESALAT declined to print it, and it was printed in ABRAR.

In recent talks in the Majles and at Tehran University, Sheikh Sadeq Khalkhali's opponents have portrayed him as a person not known for piety, and they asked him to explain where he got the money to buy a 70 million toman house. Comments by these people concerning Sheikh Sadeq Khalkhali's uses and theft have been printed in the newspaper RESALAT.

In answer to accusations from his opponents, without denying that he has such a house, Sheikh Sadeq Khalkhali wrote:

The newspaper RESALAT, which considers itself the guardian of the government and all the officials, has come to their defense, and accused me of not being known for piety and of having a 70 million toman house. Since you do not know the quality of the house and have admitted as much, why have you chosen the side of sin? May God guide you on the right path, provided you are capable of reform.

We note that Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i became an ayatollah overnight, and there are plans underway even now to make him a grand ayatollah. Homes valued in the tens of millions of tomans owned by leaders and agents of the Islamic government are not limited to Sheikh Sadeq Khalkhali.

*Arak Refinery Project Agreement Goes to Italy

91AS0116E London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] The Islamic Republic has assigned the implementation of projects to utilize the Arak refinery to the Italian contractor Saipem. The Saipem contractor, affiliated with the ENI (the National Hydrocarbons Trust), has agreed to complete the Arak refinery construction project in about 30 months. The value of the contract assigned to the Italian contractor Saipem is estimated at about 165 million liras. The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, which cabled this report from Rome, announced that the project in question has to do with the mechanical assembly for production and the assembly of pipes needed by the Arak refinery and urban installations. The news agency added:

This project was transferred to the Italian Saipem company from two international companies, the Italian TPL [expansion unknown] company and the Japanese JJK [expansion unknown] company.

The Islamic regime's news agency added: The two companies mentioned obtained the contract to build the Arak refinery unit from the National Iranian Oil company in international bidding.

*Majority Vote Fails on Experts' Election

91AS0083N London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] The names of 55 supporters of Hashemi-Rafsanjani who deprived the Majles of a quorum by not attending it one day before the elections for the Assembly of Experts have been announced. To prevent passage of a bill prepared by the Mohtashemi-Karrubi group, on the day it was to be presented this group, with the approval of Rafsanjani and Khamene'i, was absent from the Sunday 7 October session, and since the Majles quorum of 135 was not reached, the plan of the Mohtashemi-Karrubi group therefore brought no result.

The proposal that was to have been presented and passed in the Majles on Sunday stated that elections for the Assembly of Experts would be possible if the number of candidates in each precinct is twice the number of representatives in that precinct, and if this proposal had become law, it would not have been possible to hold the elections in any of the nation's provinces.

When Khamene'i and Rafsanjani became aware of the opposition plan, they acted to thwart it and deprived the Majles of a quorum. Consequently, the elections for the Assembly of Experts were held legally the next day.

The Majles speaker's council, which is influenced by Karrubi and Mohtashemi, sent a letter to Khamene'i deploring this "counterattack" by their opponents, and they printed the names of those absent from the session in the domestic newspapers.

We note that in many of the provinces there was not that much difference between the number of candidates and the number of those elected. For example in Tehran, there was only one more candidate than the number that had to be elected. For this reason in Tehran the people said that the Council of Guardians had elected the Assembly of Experts instead of the people. For example, the election of 15 people in Tehran out of 16 candidates would be nothing more than a simulation.

Nepal & Bhutan

Opposition Group Strikes; Main Towns Affected

BK0711155090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1326 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 7 (AFP)—Shops and some schools closed here Wednesday [7 November] as a Nepal Communist Party (NCP) faction went ahead with a strike, which the main opposition group had called off, a Communist party source said here.

The source said the NCP's "Fourth Convention" Group, led by Nirmal Lama, pushed ahead with the action and most shops in Kathmandu, Patan, Bhaktapur and satellite townships outside the capital were closed.

The NCP Fourth Convention is one of the seven members of the United Left Front (ULF), which has been pushing King Birendra to promulgate a new constitution.

The ULF had announced on national television and radio that the strike was cancelled because of "the present political state of affairs in the country."

Witnesses said convention members were seen asking shopkeepers in Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur to close their shops and observe the strike.

Bhattarai To Lead Delegation to SAARC Summit

BK0811012890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1905 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 7 (AFP) - Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai will lead Nepal's delegation to the fifth summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Foreign Ministry announced Wednesday [7 November].

The summit is to be held in Male, the capital of the Maldives, from November 19 to 21.

It is the first time a Nepalese prime minister will attend the summit, as a result of political changes in the Himalayan kingdom. The first four summits were attended by King Birendra.

Also joining Mr. Bhattarai will be Finance Minister Devendra Raj Pandey, advisor to the prime minister on foreign affairs Yadu Nath Khanal, member of the National Planning Commission Durgesh Man Singh, and Foreign Secretary Narendra Bikram Shah.

The SAARC, which was founded in 1985, joins Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The seven nations account for a quarter of the world's population but only two per cent of the world gross national product.

Pakistan

Newly Elected Prime Minister Addresses Nation

On Domestic Issues

BK0811075590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Nov 90 pp 1, 6

[By Tariq Butt]

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 7—Mian Nawaz Sharif, the newly elected Prime Minister, in his first address to the nation, announced the lifting of state of emergency promulgated on Aug. 6 at the time of dissolution of the National Assembly. Sounding conciliatory, he spelt out his future policies on many fronts, home and foreign, in a comprehensive 40-minute speech.

The Prime Minister vowed to carry forward the nuclear programme for peaceful objectives because he said otherwise the requirement of energy could not be fulfilled to "realise my dream of development." He made it clear that his government had no intention to develop the programme for military purposes. This was meant for the American consumption as the United States has suspended aid to Pakistan while objecting suspecting its nuclear programme. [as published]

He declared that the accountability of the previous rulers would continue and said he was engaged in consultations to formulate laws to make the incumbents accountable. "We will present ourselves for accountablity," he said.

In a thinly-veiled reference to the cutoff of US aid, the Prime Minister said, "we have to do any emergency planning and to decide whether we want to be self-sufficient or move around with a begging bowl." "As a self-respecting sovereign nation, we have to meet our demands from our own resources," he said.

Prime Minister Nawaz announced to restore the special seats for women in the national and provincial assemblies which were abolished by the expiration of a clause of the Constitution.

He conceded that Pakistan could not remain unaffected economically by the Gulf crisis which he said had landed it in difficulties. Pakistan has come under an additional burden of US dollars 2 billion. The oil prices have doubled worldwide increasing the cost of consumer items. He said his government would try to minimise the impact of spiral of prices of essential commodities on the poor.

The Prime Minister did not touch any controversy which became a heated subject during the bitter election campaign and said he wanted to forget acrimony generated during this period. He said everybody deserved praise and that democracy was incomplete without the Opposition. The government and the opposition are the vibrant parts of a "body," he said.

Describing the Federation as the house of one family, he said everyone who raised his voice to register his hardships, was dubbed as traitor. "This tradition should end now," he said, adding that every Pakistani was patriotic and nobody had monopoly over patriotism. "I have no cards of any kind to plunge any area into turmoil," he said in an implied reference to those pursuing the so-called "Sindh card" to achieve political power.

He vowed to bring about an "industrial revolution" and said there would [be] restriction on setting up industries. The investors would be fully protected and the official procedural hurdles would be removed. He said the public sector industries would be privatised and promised to give tax holidays throughout the country.

APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] ADDS: ACCOUNTABILITY: Nawaz Sharif said his government will refrain from pursuing the path of "Safarishi", nepotism and family patronage.

He pointed out it was not reasonable to make the governments accountable after their tenure. That was why, he wanted to make such arrangements that the accountability process be started during the period of the government.

His objectives included dispensation of speedy justice by speeding up the work of the administrative machinery, Nawaz Sharif added.

The experiment of providing quick and speedy justice through special courts was already undertaken in the near past, adding that it had been very successful with the blessing of Almighty Allah.

He said he had already made mention of the helplessness of the people who either become victim of oppression or have to wait for justice for many years.

ECONOMIC SYSTEM: Mr. Nawaz said the present oppressive economic system would be changed under which millions of people in the country were growing. He said this cruel system would be replaced by the economic system of Islam based on justice which could bring happiness on the face of the common man.

He said it was his faith that so long as happiness and prosperity was not reflected from the face of a common man, the face of Pakistan could never glow with happiness.

Mr. Nawaz made it clear that the enforcement of Islamic principles would no longer be a slogan and these would practically be implemented.

He said Zakat and Ushr would be utilised in fulfilling the needs of the deserving persons and for the education of the children.

He said the government was bound by Constitution to enforce Islamic laws.

TAX HOLIDAY: Mr. Nawaz announced that tax holiday would be enforced throughout the country, to create congenial atmosphere for free industrialisation. He said his government would also transfer nationalised sick industrial units to the private sector, which were not only an impediment in the way of free industrialisation in the country, but also a burden on the national exchequer. It was ironical, he said, that these sick units were eating away billions of rupees of public money.

He said he wished that even the defence equipment should also be produced by the private sector, leaving aside only sensitive material. Pakistani industrialists, he said, were capable of producing everything within the country.

If private companies of other countries could produce defence material for Pakistan, why this could not be done by the Pakistani industrialists themselves, he asked.

HOUSING: Mr. Nawaz said that residents of all recognised katchi abadies [slum dwellers] throughout the country would be given proprietary rights. He said he had also decided that the hutments would not be allowed to remain in shabby and subhuman conditions. It would be his effort to enable the residents of these katchi abadies to live in conditions with necessary civic facilities.

He has, therefore, decided to set up development authorities, for katchi abadies, on the pattern of KDA [Karachi Development Authority], CDA [Capital Development Authority] and LDA [Lahore Development Auhtority]. These authorities, he said, would be responsible for providing water to these abadies, besides making arrangements for the disposal of sewer water.

He said these authorities would also provide Sui gas, transport and pucca [paved] roads in these abadies wherever possible.

AUSTERITY: Mian Nawaz Sharif pleaded for one dish menu at social gatherings and wedding parties, to curb tendencies of extravagance in the people. He said to promote austerity and simplicity, his government had decided that he, his colleagues and officials would not participate in wedding parties having more than one dish on the menu.

He regretted that extravagance and lavish spending was eating into the vitals of our society in addition to creating many economic difficulties. It was, therefore, imperative that such tendencies were vigorously avoided.

He appealed to the people to inculcate, promote and strengthen the habit of saving and austerity.

He concluded his remarks on the subject with the appeal—"give me austere life and hard work, I will give you prosperity and stability: give me discipline, I will give you peace and tranquility."

MANDATE: Nawaz Sharif said the people gave their verdict in recent elections in favour of unity, integrity and solidarity of the country and national honour.

He said people's mandate not only endorsed the action of the President of August 6 last but also reflected the victory of ideals of Allama Iqbal and Father of the Nation Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. It was also triumph of the people of the country and that of democracy, he added.

He said the verdict of the masses, in fact, was reminiscent of the historic decision of Muslims of the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent in 1946 given in favour of the Pakistan Movement and struggle of Muslim League under the dynamic and bold leadership of the Quaid-i-Azam.

This victory, he said, also manifested the triumph of the spirit of eleven core people of the country to eliminate poverty, illiteracy, obscenity, injustice and corruption from the motherland.

PRICES: Nawaz Sharif said his government would strive hard to protect the poor masses from the current worldwide wave of price hike, especially essential items.

He said he had started examining various proposals in this regards.

He, however, categorically said that every endeavour would be made not to allow increase in the prices of atta [flour], vanaspati ghee [a type of vegetable oil], pulses and cotton cloth.

Mian Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan had been plunged into a difficult phase due to the Gulf crisis, as she had to bear an additional burden of two billion dollars (forty billion rupees). Besides, there are problems of rehabilitation of Pakistanis uprooted from there and the worldwide prices of oil had also doubled. Pakistan was also not safe from its impact, he said.

He said it was the increase in the prices of oil due to which the nation would be confronted with a new wave of general price hike.

He asserted that the government had no hand in this situation. Pakistan had also become victim of this vicious wave, which could not be blunted. Efforts, however, could be made to save the poor people from it, he said, assuring the people that his government would take all necessary steps to do that.

UPLIFT PLAN: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said his government had an elaborate and wide-ranging national reconstruction plan, implementation of which would ensure successful march of Pakistan into the 21st century, by adequately meeting the peculiar challenges and demands.

He said, in this context "proper use of the abundant national resources will be made—adhocism will be shunned, merit and calibre alone will be patronised, pace of industrialisation will be expedited, proper use of talented manpower will be made and basic civic amenities will be extended to the hitherto denied areas".

The Prime Minister cautioned the administrative machinery to improve its efficiency, through discipline and dint of committment to duty.

He said, the administrative machinery would have to work with "supersonic speed and efficiency, to be able to deliver the goods".

"The challenges ahead are enormous, but the commitment I carry is much more weightier, all-embracing, futuristic and of paramount national importance", he asserted.

LEGISLATURES: Nawaz Sharif said complete coordination between the Senate and the National Assembly in the process of legislation could alone promote the vital role of the federation.

He said his government would give respect to the Constitution and the constitutional and democratic institutions. Senate had a great importance with the National Assembly in the federal democratic structure. This significant place and dignity of the Senate would be fully protected, he added.

He said he would deal with the atmosphere at home as well. By home he meant the federation of Pakistan. Disturbances and unrest were created in this home and there was everything here except an atmosphere of a home. The federation did not take the provinces as the members of this family and home and in the provinces some elements too did not consider federation as their home.

On Foreign Policy

BK0811080590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Nov 90 pp 1, 8

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 7—Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif today said his government would pursue an independent foreign policy, consistent with national aspirations and feeling.

Nawaz Sharif was addressing the nation on TV and Radio tonight. He said Pakistan would continue to support the realisation of rights of Muslims all over the world including occupied Kashmir and Afghanistan.

He said Pakistan would continue to support rights of Muslims in all parts of the world including Palestine, Cyprus, Eritrea and everywhere they were struggling for their freedom. "They would have our support in future also", he said.

Pakistan he said had always opposed the aggression against the people of Afghanistan and would continue to strive for restoration of the democratic rights of the people of that country.

Mian Nawaz Sharif said at this stage it was not possible for him to speak in detail on foreign policy.

However, he said People's Republic of China was Pakistan's great neighbour with which it had a special relationship. "We have gone through every trial and after every such trial our friendship has been further strengthened", he said.

He said in international relations, Pakistan had always extended a hand of friendship to the free world particularly to the United States of America. The cooperation and friendship would further flourish, he said.

He said the Soviet Union was Pakistan's great neighbour. In the changed circumstances Pakistan was expected to have greater cooperation and friendship with this country.

With United Germany and Japan, he said, Pakistan had always had good ties. Pakistan, he said, had deep rooted political, economic and cultural cooperation with those countries. In the next century both these great nations were expected to play a major role and he was confident Pakistani nation would be with them.

Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe, he said were destined to play a major role to end their economic difficulty in which Pakistan would always support them. "We will always support them in creating an international economic system which will suit them all," he said.

Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan was linked with Iran and Turkey in a strong regional organisation. Apart from religion, culture, economy and history, Pakistan shared the dreams and aspirations of these countries. "Our relations with the passage of time will continue to grow and strengthen," he said.

He said with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states Pakistan had special relationship. In the present circumstances we want to extend to Saudi Arabia and other brotherly countries full cooperation. It was our policy that no country could usurp the freedom of any country on the basis of strength, he said.

Pakistan, he said, had always special relationship with Bangladesh which was based on spiritual affinity. With Islamic world, Pakistan, he said, had natural relationship.

About country's armed forces, Mian Nawaz Sharif, said it was an army of Islam. With God's blessings, it was rated among the best in the world. "Our great armed forces have played a great role in the defence of Pakistan," he said. During the past few years the country's armed forces had played a sincere role to strengthen democracy. The nation had full faith in the armed forces", he said.

Coming to Pakistan's relations with India, the Prime Minister referred to the Babri Mosque issue and regretted that a bigotted majority there was trying to suppress a sizeable minority without any human sympathy or consideration. He demanded the implementation of Liaquat-Nehru pact under which the two countries had undertaken to protect minorities in the two countries.

About freedom struggle of Muslims of occupied Kashmir, he said Pakistan would continue to support their struggle for freedom. They had a right to expect Pakistan to support them till their future was secured. He said both Pakistan and India had accepted to give the Kashmiris the right to exercise their right of self-determination. He said it was very sad that instead of implementing this decision, India was suppresssing and victimising the people of occupied Kashmir.

He said it would be his government's endeavour to secure the right of self-determination of the oppressed Kashmiri Muslims in accordance with the United Nations resolutions. We want to build our relations with India on the basis of peaceful co-existence and have proved in the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] meeting that our policies are based on sincerity. "Pakistan, he said, had never remained adamant." We have also proved time and again that Pakistan had the will to suppress crucial issues provided the other party reciprocates in the same manner.

Addresses Assembly

BK0711135690 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 7 Nov 90 p 12

[Apparent text of Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's address to the National Assembly on 6 November]

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 6—Following is the English rendering of the address of Mr Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on election as the leader of the House in the National Assembly here on Tuesday.

"I am indebted to this august house, which considering me worthy of the heavy responsibilities of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, elected me the 'Leader of the House'.

"It is only and the only,[as published] the grace of God, the blessing of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) [peace be upon Him] and the obligation of the elected members of the House to have elevated me to the position held by some of the most distinguished personalities of the country.

"The House, which has be stowed the honour and prestige to me, is the representative of the people of Pakistan.

"I assure the House, and through its courtesy, the people of Pakistan that I shall try my utmost to prove myself worthy of the confidence reposed in me and that shall I discharge my duties according to dictates of the overall interests of the nation, within the orbit of the Constitution of Pakistan and in a manner befitting to the dignity and honour of the House. I shall be looking forward to the able guidance and support of members of the House. I pray that God may help me in the discharge of my duties. Amen.

"The people of Pakistan have elected both segments of the House—the Treasury and the Opposition—with very high hopes. The people of Pakistan want that the Constitutional Rule should continue in the country and be supplemented by the rule of law and the true democratic traditions which should create a congenial atmosphere for the representatives of the people to concentrate on the problems of the people. We must fulfill this earnest will of the people of Pakistan. Democracy entails some responsibilities and duties to the Treasury benches but also entails some positive role to the Opposition. Today, after the election as the leader of the House, I assure my colleagues in the Opposition benches that I shall, according to the Constitution, law and the wishes of the people of Pakistan, shall accord due position and respect to the opposition.

"Insha Allah [God willing] to me all the members of the House whether they belong to the ruling or opposition party will be equal. Insha Allah, the times ahead will be free from confrontation belligerence and petty disputes but shall be beckoning towards the prosperity and consolidation which could only be achieved through mutual cooperation.

"Whether it may be the Afghan war or the struggle for the independence of Kashmir, be it the attempts for the betterment of the country's economy or the steps for the restoration of law and order all the major issues confronted by the nation could become the basis of the cooperation.

"I, on the one side thank the members of the House on my election and on the other side I offer cooperation, goodwill and the will to work together for the future.

"Islami Jamhoori Ittehad has won the election as the representative of the will of the people of Pakistan. Our colleagues and the opponents have also won the election on the positive promises to the people and as such we have to work together for the achievement of the positive results for the people of Pakistan."

President Addresses Parliament on New Government

BK0811085890 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has identified nation building as the ultimate goal of the new government and said it will initiate concrete measures without any loss of time. He was addressing a joint session of Parliament in Islamabad this morning after coming into being of the new National Assembly.

Outlining the agenda of the new government, he said it is its top priority in actual practise and not the announcement for loan in the task of establishing social and economic justice in the light of Islamic teachings and in accordance with Iqbal's [Allama Iqbal, the national poet] concept and the Qaid's [Qaid-i Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the father of the nation] dream. It will strive to enforce decency and justice in politics and in administration so that they become a mark of our national identity.

Warmly congratulating the newly elected members, he described the new house as an encouraging combination of experience and enthusiasm, motivation, and dynamic balanced thinking, positive action and inspiring leadership. He said the parliament will have to give priority to legislation for the enforcement of an Islamic order and pointed out that the new assembly is an unambiguous truth of the people's commitment to Pakistan's ideology. He said hardly any house in the past had a pure mandate to realize the fundamental objectives of Pakistan's creation. This demands that efforts be made to transform Pakistan into a model egalitarian Islamic state, a modern state which is a befitting answer to the mischievous propaganda of anti-Islamic forces. He demanded the ruling party that by giving a mandate in its favor, the people have put great responsibility on its shoulder. They have been chosen as servants and not monsters of the people to fulfill their aspirations and expectations.

Opposition Boycotts Address

BK0811100890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0954 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 8 (AFP)—The Pakistani opposition led by former Premier Benazir Bhutto here Thursday boycotted an address to the parliament by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to protest his policies.

Ms. Bhutto bitterly attacked Mr. Ishaq Khan during the runup to last month's elections and alleged afterwards that the president had engineered the defeat of her People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) through "massive rigging."

"To be democratic is nothing but to accept and honour the people's verdict," said the 75-year old president, who fired Ms. Bhutto in August on charges of corruption and misrule and called new elections.

The boycott Thursday showed that while Ms. Bhutto and her party had accepted to sit in the opposition, they were not yet ready for a change of heart towards the president, observers said.

On Tuesday, Ms. Bhutto and her party stayed away from a ceremony at the presidency when Mr. Ishaq Khan swore in Nawaz Sharif, leader of the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), as prime minister for a five-year term.

Addressing a joint session of the lower and upper houses of parliament, Mr. Ishaq Khan said that the nation had vindicated the action taken by him in August.

Elections were held "freely and fairly," the president said, adding that "even observers from the developed world, who look through the microscope to find fault with the developing nations, came out with open praise."

Pakistan, he said, did not need a foreign certificate for its commitment to democracy but "this must have satisfied those of us who warmly welcome everthing with a foreign label on it."

A 40-member team of international poll watchers from the Washington-based National Democratic Institute and a group of Canadian observers had given a clean bill to the elections. A French observer team had expressed an opposite view.

Advising the opposition to accept the people's mandate, President Ishaq Khan said it was "true that it is always painful to come out of one's own illusions, but to accept that pain with grace is the key to success."

He called on the opposition to play a positive and constructive role and the new government to respect differences of opinion, never showing any vengeance in its actions.

The bitterness and polarization generated by the elections should come to an end, he said.

Mr. Ishaq Khan said the accountability initiated by the previous caretaker government should be continued and it should be made a continuous process, covering not only past "corruption" but also future abuse of power.

Eleven special courts set up before the elections are hearing cases of misconduct against Ms. Bhutto and her associates. They can debar those adjudged guilty from politics for up to seven years.

Ms. Bhutto views the process, which has so far remained confined to her party, as political victimization.

While speaking as opposition leader in the lower house on Tuesday, she demanded that the new government withdraw the "politically motivated" cases.

IJI Condemns 'Desecration' of Mosque in India

BK0611143490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The Islamic Democratic Alliance [IJI] parliamentary party has condemned the desecration of the historic Babri Mosque by Hindu extremists in the Indian city of Ayodhya. The parliamentary party at its meeting in Islamabad today adopted a resolution which says this incident has trampled upon the feelings of the Muslims throughout the world. This has also hurt the Pakistan people's sentiments and they are saddened. The resolution expressed complete solidarity with the Indian muslims. The meeting was presided over by the Islamic Democratic Alliance President Nawaz Sharif.

PRC, India Leaders Congratulate Sharif

BK0711102590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Several world leaders have congratulated Nawaz Sharif on his assumption of the office of the prime minister of Pakistan. In his message, Chinese Premier Li Peng said: China and Pakistan are two close, friendly, and neighboring countries and I am hopeful that friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries will grow further.

Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh, in his congratulatory message, has assured the Pakistani prime minister of his cooperation in the efforts to normalize bilateral relations and maintain peace and stability in the region.

Greeting the prime minister, Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has expressed the hope that during Nawaz Sharif's term of office, the existing close and fraternal bilateral relations will be further strengthened to the mutual benefit of the two countries.

In his message, Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa has spoken of the traditional friendly ties between Sri Lanka and Pakistan and has expressed the hope that these relations will grow from strength to strength.